ALL ABOUT HISTORY



Secret Missions Of World War II
10 covert ops that shaped victory

NEW

THE LAST DAY OF LINCOLN
The journey to Ford's Theatre: the legendary leader's final acts

REVOLUTION!
Epic guide to liberty and rebellion •
Major battles and conflicts •
10 iconic revolutionaries •
2000 years of uprisings •

Who discovered Australia?
The explorers who found the Great South Land

50 EVENTS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Ancient Greece to 9/11 – history's gamechangers revealed



"The president seized his throat"
An eyewitness account of the tragic day at Dealey Plaza



Grigori Rasputin
Behind the myth of the mad monk

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ISSUE 001

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History in the making

70TH ANNIVERSARY 617 Sqn DAMBUSTERS



A50138 1:72 Scale
Dambusters Gift Set
This aircraft was flown by Wing Commander Guy Gibson, Commanding Officer No.617 Squadron. Gibson led three Lancasters to attack and breach the Eder Dam.

A01731 1:72 Scale
WWI Royal Horse Artillery
Trying to make the army more mobile during the Great War the Royal Horse Artillery in this set have two field guns, a full team of horses, gun limber and full crew.

A50142 1:76 Scale
King Tiger / Cromwell MkIV
Both the Cromwell and Tiger II tanks made their combat debuts in the Normandy campaign, however both were very different types of tank, the Cromwell being a manoeuvrable and fast medium cruiser tank, the Tiger II being a hugely complex heavy tank, weighing in at 68 tonnes.

A50104 1:700 Scale
RMS Titanic Gift Set
RMS Titanic was an Olympic-class passenger liner owner by the White Star Line and built at the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast, Northern Ireland. On the night of 14th April 1912, during her maiden voyage, Titanic hit an iceberg, and sank two hours and forty minutes later, early on 15 April 1912, with the loss of 1,517 lives. At the time of her launching in 1912, she was the largest passenger steamship in the world.







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Welcome to issue one

History is rich, diverse and exciting. And we're long overdue a history magazine to reflect this. That's why we created **All About History**, a unique new publication that's every bit as interesting and engaging as the real stories and themes it presents. This is no place for dry and dreary academic articles; this is the magazine to transport you back to the major events and eras of the past through a combination of colourful, engrossing articles written by experts and coupled with breathtaking photography, illustration, art and infographics.

History belongs to everyone and foremost in our plan for this magazine is that it presents even complex topics in a way that is accessible and entertaining to all. Every issue will open with a guide to an epic theme from history – and 'Revolution' seemed perfect for this trailblazing first issue. Other subjects we plan to cover include exploration, invention, war, medicine and much more. Our articles take a unique and innovative approach to exploring history. Features include 'What if...' in which an expert speculates on how the landscape of today might have looked had the outcome of a key historic event been different. We also give an in-depth biographical take on a famous character from the past in 'Heroes & Villains'. Our 'Eyewitness' feature examines a significant event from the perspective of an actual observer while other articles include the 'Bluffer's Guide' that delivers bite-sized facts about civilisations eras, and cultures to help you retain what you read.

We've tried to ensure that innovation is as much a driving force behind our approach to this magazine as it has been across history itself. So if you have a passion for times past, read, absorb, enjoy and immerse yourself in the magazine that is, literally, **All About History**.



Dave Harfield
Editor in Chief

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Prof Aaron Sheehan-Dean's expert take on what could have happened if the confederacy had won America's Civil War



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The wealth of fascinating facts about how the Mayans lived reveals just how remarkably advanced this ancient civilisation was



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Mystic with miraculous healing powers or oversexed charlatan intent on seducing a Russian queen? A biographical look at the mad monk

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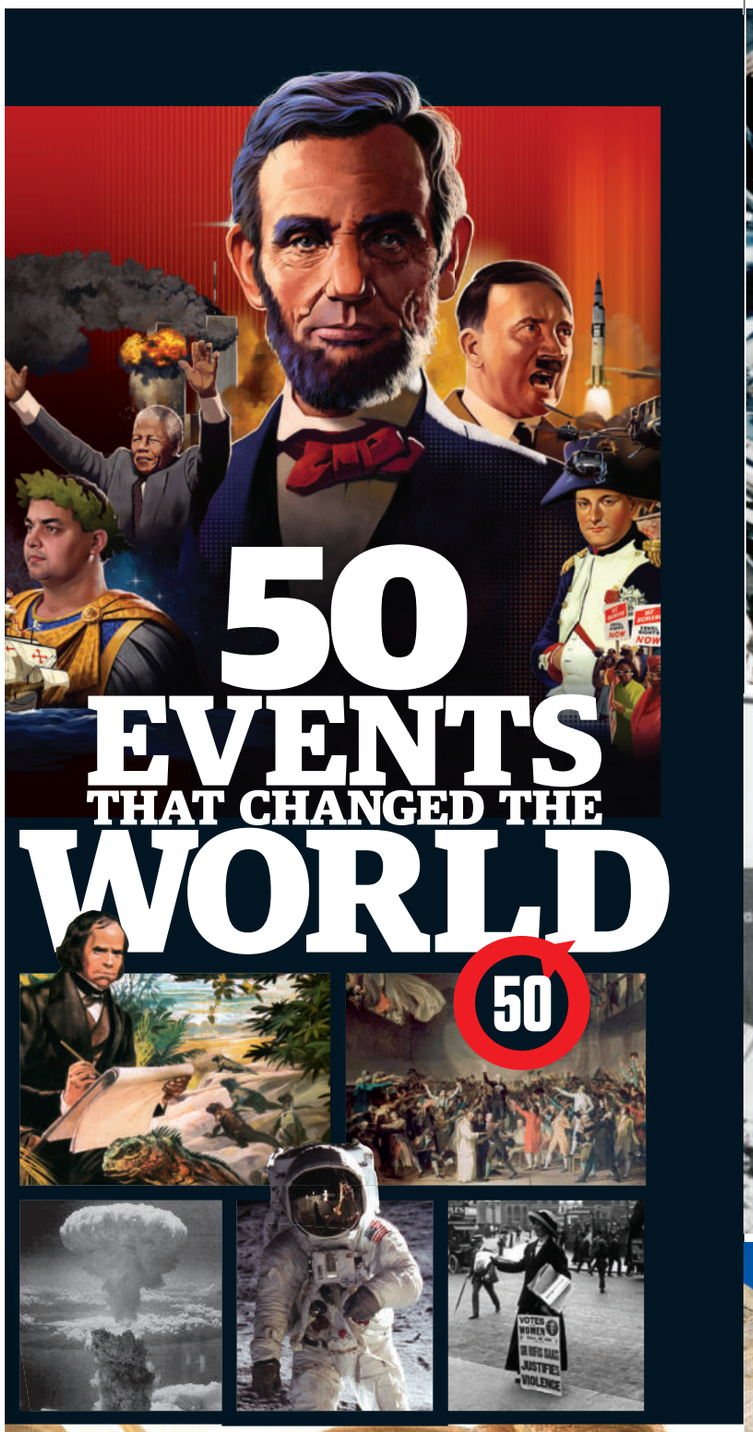
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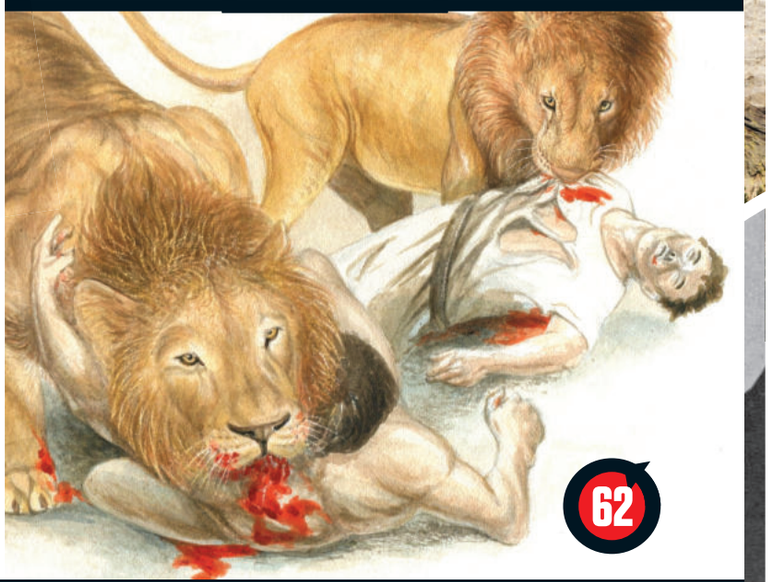
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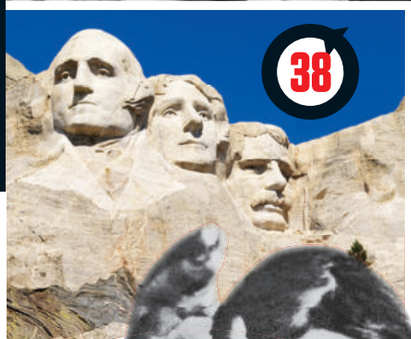
80 Secret Missions of World War II
The espionage, sabotage and dangerous daring raids that changed the face of World War II

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DEFINING MOMENT

THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES

The Hall of Mirrors in the Palace of Versailles was an appropriate venue for signing the peace treaty that would end "the war to end all wars", holding, as it could, many hundreds of dignitaries. Few of those featured in this photograph could have realised that the treaty would lead to far greater destruction just two decades later.

28 June 1919

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DEFINING MOMENT

SPIRE TOPS THE ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER

The final section of the spire was elevated to the top of One World Trade Center to cheers from construction workers and onlookers, who are captured in this iconic shot. Soaring to a symbolic 1,776 feet (541 metres), One World Trade Center is a towering monument to the victims of the attacks that shook the nation on 9/11.

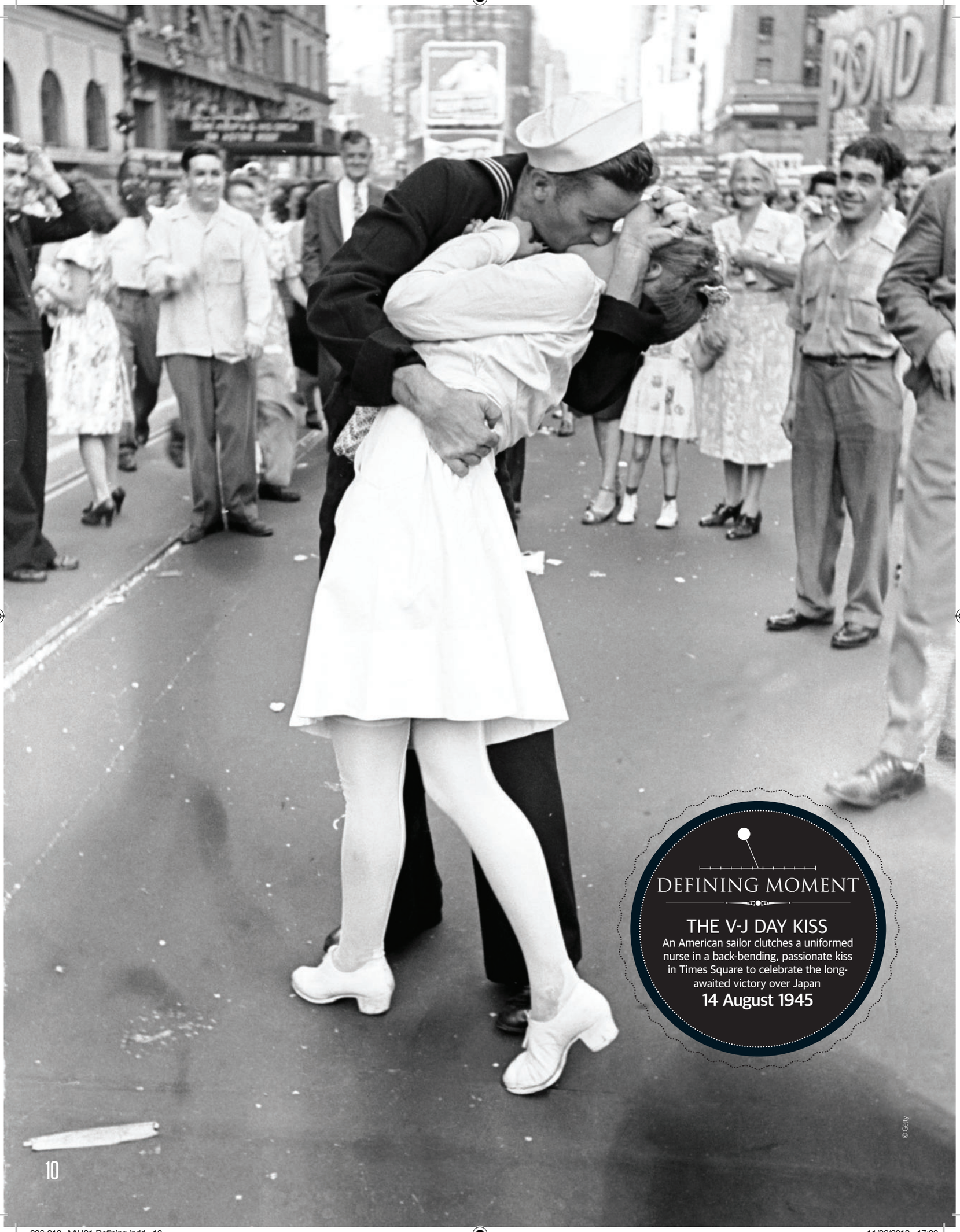
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DEFINING MOMENT

THE V-J DAY KISS

An American sailor clutches a uniformed nurse in a back-bending, passionate kiss in Times Square to celebrate the long-awaited victory over Japan

14 August 1945

© Getty

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Is it a...
A. Perfume atomiser
B. Carbolic steam spray
c. Mosquito deterrent

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Revolution!

17 PAGES OF HISTORIC UPRISINGS

This painting, *Fighting at the Hotel de Ville* from the French Revolution has become an iconic symbol of uprising

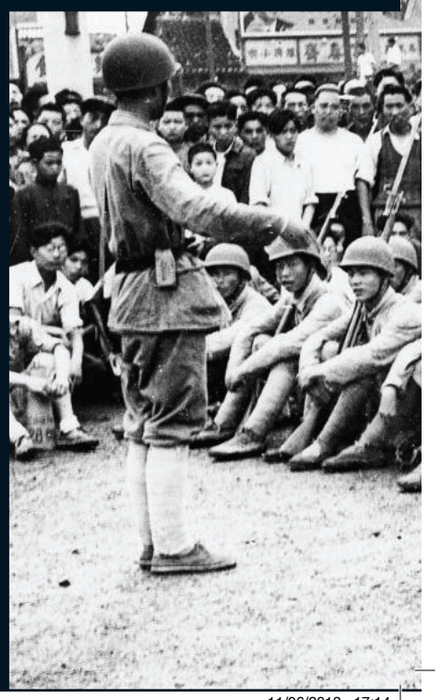
Rev·o·lu·tion A forcible overthrow of a system leading to dramatic and wide-reaching change to the social order

The Chilean Declaration of Independence, 1818





Isambard Kingdom Brunel, a key figure of the Industrial Revolution



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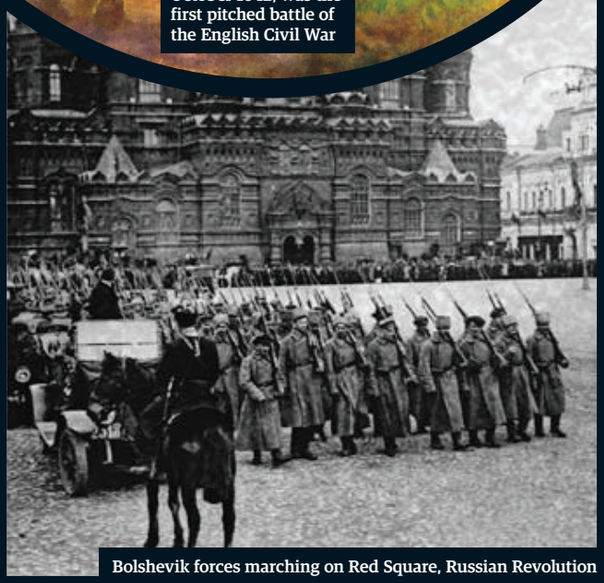
Revolution!



The Battle of Edgehill, October 1642, was the first pitched battle of the English Civil War



Young soldiers sitting atop a tank during the Cuban Revolution



Bolshevik forces marching on Red Square, Russian Revolution



The Battle of Bunker Hill, Revolutionary War, June 1775

1949, Shanghai, China. Victorious "Liberation" Army troops are warmly greeted by students and townsfolk during the Chinese Civil War



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From Spartacus to Aung San Suu Kyi, histories most prolific revolutionaries

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In 1917 the Russian proletariat could eat over two pounds of black bread per day. Find out how to make it...

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Meet the Industrial Revolution's most prolific engineering genius

© Corbis; Alamy

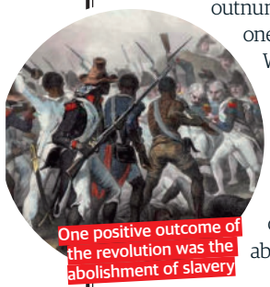
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Over 2000 years of revolutions

THE HAITIAN REVOLUTION

SAINT-DOMINGUE 1791-1803

The Caribbean in the 18th century was the hub for world trade in sugar, coffee, cotton and indigo. The French-controlled island of Saint-Domingue was a patchwork of plantations. To support all of these industries, the wealthy European landowners shipped in black slaves from Africa. By 1789, they outnumbered their masters by more than ten to one, living and working in terrible conditions. With escaped slaves (maroons) already instigating small revolts, conditions were ripe for a full-scale slave rebellion. It began on 21 August 1791 and quickly gathered momentum. The libertarian attitudes of the new French republic and concerns of war with Britain meant that France abolished slavery in its colonies in 1794.



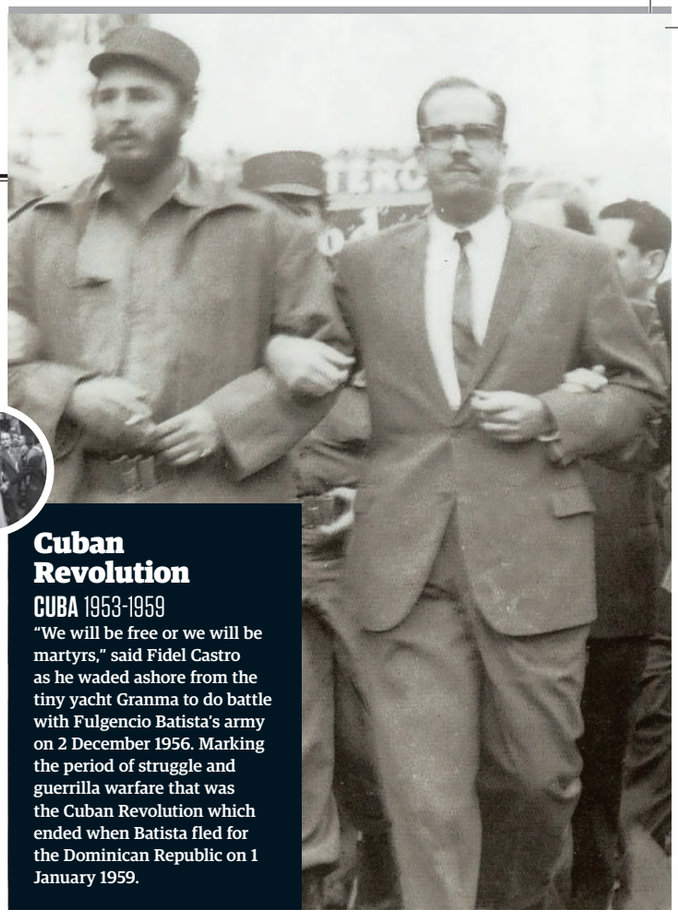
One positive outcome of the revolution was the abolishment of slavery



Iranian Revolution

IRAN 1979

The Westernisation of Iran and Shah Pahlavi's friendly ties with the UK and US had become unpopular with the Iranian people. After a series of riots that crippled the country, the Shah fled Iran in 1979 and popular cleric Ayatollah Khomeini returned two weeks later to become its Supreme Leader. There was surprisingly little bloodshed, and the speed at which Iran went from a Western-style monarchy to an Islamic theocracy astounded the world.



Cuban Revolution

CUBA 1953-1959

"We will be free or we will be martyrs," said Fidel Castro as he waded ashore from the tiny yacht Granma to do battle with Fulgencio Batista's army on 2 December 1956. Marking the period of struggle and guerrilla warfare that was the Cuban Revolution which ended when Batista fled for the Dominican Republic on 1 January 1959.

Revolution timeline



Boudica

Boudica leads the Britons against Rome
Seizing an opportunity to oust Roman rule from Britain, the queen of the Iceni tribe rallied the Britons against their foreign overlords.
60 CE

Constantinople's deadliest riot
The Nika revolt was a deadly week-long riot in Constantinople that resulted in the deaths of thousands of people.
532 CE

The Scottish war for independence
In a conflict that has been made legendary in popular culture, the Scottish united to gain independence from England.
1286-1328

The Prussians rise against the crusaders
A peace treaty that was never honoured by the church resulted in the Baltic tribes rebelling against the Teutonic Knights.
1242-1249



Robert the Bruce

The Storming of the Bastille
A crucial point in the French Revolution, the seizure of this royal fortress put weapons into the hands of the commoners.
14 July 1789

The slave revolt of the Haitian revolution
A turning point in Caribbean and world history, this revolution led directly to the abolition of slavery.
1791-1804



King Charles I

600 BCE | 400 BCE | 200 BCE | 0 | 200 | 400 | 600 | 800 | 1000 | 1100 | 1200 | 1300 | 1400 | 1500 | 1600 | 1700 | 1800 | 1850 | 1900

The Helot slaves revolt against their masters
The Helots were a slave population subjugated by Spartan overlords, who used a timely earthquake to rebel.
464 BCE

Julius Caesar marches on Rome
The beginning of Julius Caesar's Roman Empire was marked by an illegal entry into Rome at the head of his army.
49 BCE

The Samurai clans claim Japan
A significant waypoint in the history of Japan, the Hōgen Rebellion led to the dominance of the Samurai governments in Japan.
1156

The execution of King Charles I
The English Civil War saw the death of Charles Stuart and the short-lived establishment of an English commonwealth.
30 January 1649

The American Revolutionary War
This famous revolution pitched the 13 colonies of North America against the British army and created the United States of America.
1775-1783

Deadly Chinese conflict against the Qing Dynasty
The Taiping Rebellion was led by Hong Xiuquan, a madman who believed he was the younger brother of Jesus and instigated one of the deadliest revolts in history.
1850-1864



The Roman Emperor, Julius Caesar

The Roman Revolution

ROME 56-49 BCE



Julius Caesar crossing the rubicon

For 500 years Rome had been a republic, with politicians conducting their affairs in the Senate. It was a democracy – albeit a thoroughly corrupt one – in which money, as much as popularity, could win you power. Following the death of his father in 85 BCE, the young Julius Caesar set out on a different path. Having left Rome to begin a military career, his conquests abroad and his political dexterity saw him ascend through the ranks. He sought out powerful political friends and also brought the Roman legions over to his side after a series of notable victories, including the conquest of Gaul. He was ordered to lay down his command by the senate but, instead of complying, he marched on Rome, crossing the point of no return that was the Rubicon river (uttering the famous words *'alea iacta est'*, which means 'the die has been cast' in Latin) and finally taking control of the government.

The Hōgen Rebellion

JAPAN 1156



This instigated the first of the three Samurai-led governments in Japan

Japan's Age of the Samurai began with a short uprising that lasted no more than three weeks. It was a dispute regarding the succession to the Japanese throne. More specifically, it was about how much power the hereditary Japanese rulers would have. The rebellion started when the two former Emperors, Toba and Sutoku, made way for emperor Konoe, with the intention of retaining significant power. However, when Konoe unexpectedly died, a power struggle arose that plunged the clans into chaos, leading to the Heiji rebellion a few years later and outright civil war towards the end of the century.

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Fidel Castro and Ché Guevara lead a memorial march in Havana on 5 May 1960

The Treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton

EDINBURGH 1328

Signed in 1328 by Robert the Bruce, King of Scots, and the English parliament, this treaty marked the end of the first war for Scottish independence. Although Scotland's campaign wasn't made final until further rebellions (notably the second war for independence), it was a major step towards ruling itself. As laid out in the terms of this treaty, in return for £100,000 ($155,260) – several billions in today's currency – Scotland would be allowed to rule itself independently behind a recognised border, with Robert the Bruce as its rightful ruler.

Spanish Civil War

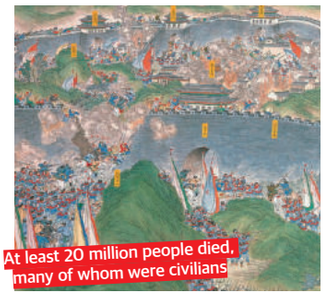
SPAIN 1936 - 39

1930's Spain was a divided nation torn between right-wing Nationalists and left-wing Republican parties. Both spent time in elected power before the army rebelled and forced the Republicans from power in 1936. The fight against fascism drew young men and women from all over Europe to join the International Brigades but despite receiving weapons and supplies from the Soviet Union, Nationalist forces won the war when Madrid was captured in 1939.

The Taiping Rebellion

CHINA 1850-1864

Hong Xiuquan was a poor peasant farmer. Having taken civil service examinations and failed, Hong was exposed to the preaching of a Christian missionary and later came to believe he was the younger brother of Jesus Christ. He became a preacher himself and amassed a following of up to 30,000, alarming the Qing dynasty local authorities who then sent soldiers to disperse them. When his followers killed the soldiers, a larger force was dispatched and so Hong's army went on the warpath. They broke through the blockade, secured the town of Yongan and then Nanjing. From here, Hong ruled the region. Yet after a failed attempt to take Shanghai, and on the back foot, Hong committed suicide, thus ending the rebellion.


At least 20 million people died, many of whom were civilians

AMERICAN REVOLUTION

NORTH AMERICA 1775-1783

In 1775, just before two other major rebellions in history, the French and Haitian revolutions, the New World was about to declare its independence from Britain. After being excessively taxed by the British, the thirteen colonies of North America united to oust royal officials and unanimously reject the authority of the British parliament. Britain sent its navy in to quell the uprising, but the United States were organised and had military backing from France, Britain's historic enemy. In 1783 a peace treaty was negotiated on the side of the colonists and the US formally separated from Britain.


The Treaty of Paris in 1783 officially separated Britain from the US

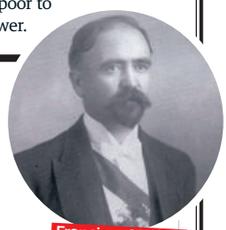
Madero Rebels

MEXICO 1910

Porfirio Díaz had ruled Mexico since 1876, promoting its economy at the cost of the poor. Only the wealthy could vote, so when Francisco Madero announced that he would run against Díaz, the president imprisoned him. Madero escaped and published a letter detailing massive reforms for the working class, inspiring Mexico's poor to form an army and force Díaz from power.


Porfirio Diaz


Francisco Franco


Francisco Madero

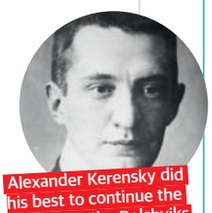

Fidel Castro

The Mexican Revolution against Porfirio Díaz
A consolidated uprising against the dictator Díaz soon turned into a civil war as the rebels fought among themselves.
1910-1920

Francisco Franco's rebels seize control of Spain
General Franco's nationalist rebels defeat the republic via a military coup, marking the beginning of a dark period for Spain.
1 April 1939

The overthrow of Cuba's president, Fulgencio Batista
Beginning in 1953, Fidel Castro's guerilla July Movement culminated in the removal of Fulgencio Batista's dictatorship.
1 January 1959

1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010


Alexander Kerensky did his best to continue the war against the Bolshviks

Russia's Petrograd provisional government is overthrown
A part of the larger Russian Revolution, this Bolshevik uprising ultimately led to the creation of the Soviet Union.
October 1917


Mao Zedong official portrait by Zhang Zhenshi

The People's Republic of China is established
Led by Mao Zedong, hundreds of thousands of nationalist troops and sympathisers are ousted and a new communist Chinese era is born.
1 October 1949

Ayatollah Khomeini returns to Iran
The exiled cleric and leader of the Iranian Revolution returns to his homeland to a rapturous crowd, who proclaim him Supreme Leader.
1979


Ayatolla Khomeini

The Irish republican Easter rising
Seeking to form an Irish Republic for an independent Ireland, this rebellion led to the war that ended British rule.
29 April 1916



The Chinese Revolution

CHINA 1946-1952

During a period of significant turmoil following the Second World War, the Communist Party of China (CPC) rose to the fore and sought to overthrow the nationalist Republic of China, led by the Kuomintang of China (KMT). While the KMT was supported by the US with financial and military aid, there was little support for the CPC from Russia. The CPC was much better organised, though, and when Stalin's Red Army finally sided with the CPC's, the combined People's Liberation Army – led by Mao Zedong – swept across China to proclaim it the People's Republic of China, under the communist regime, in October 1949.

The English Civil War

KINGDOM OF ENGLAND 1642-1651

King Charles I's dissolution of the old parliament and granting of monopolies eventually led to an uprising, ironically by the new parliament that he had established, which was supposed to support his cause and raise money. The Scots had already rebelled against his religious policies and, fearing all-out civil war, Charles attempted to have five members of parliament arrested, but failed to find them. Two factions arose over the next few months: the parliamentarians (Roundheads) and the royalists (Cavaliers), with the Scottish siding with the parliamentarians. King Charles I lost the ensuing war, was found guilty of high treason and then beheaded in 1649.


King Charles I was found guilty of treason and beheaded in 1649

©Look and Learn/Getty

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Hall of fame

10 ICONIC REVOLUTIONARIES

Be it a hero or a tyrant every revolution needs a leader to bind the people to the cause, discover ten influential figures who did so for better or worse



"If you tremble with indignation at every injustice, then you are a comrade of mine" *Che Guevara*

Walter (Wat) Tyler

ENGLISH. 1341-1381

No one likes paying taxes, especially if their nation is reeling from the impact of the Black Death, but in 1381 a new poll tax was enough to spark a mass rebellion: the Peasants' Revolt. Like many, Wat Tyler was sick of serfdom, and so he led a march around 60,000-strong from Kent to London in order to air his grievances to King Richard II. Early negotiations appeared to be going well, with the 14-year-old monarch seemingly acquiescing to the demands of Tyler and the rebels for greater autonomy, but during a subsequent meeting at Smithfield, Tyler was stabbed to death by royal officials. With their leader gone, the revolt petered out, and within two weeks the king had gone back on his promises.



Although unsuccessful in the short term, the Peasants' Revolt ushered in a new era of respect for the poor



MOHANDAS (MAHATMA) GANDHI

INDIAN. 1869-1948

Not only did Mahatma ('great soul') Gandhi bring about India's independence, he did it without spilling a drop of blood. As a young barrister, Gandhi fought to improve the rights of Indian immigrants in South Africa. *Satyagraha*, his non-violent means of protest, was a great success. Returning to India in 1914, he amassed a large following that called for an end to British rule through passive resistance. In the Thirties, Gandhi was disheartened by the growing divide between Hindus and Muslims, and it heralded the splitting of his nation into India and Pakistan when independence finally arrived.

Gandhi didn't get to see the day that the Constitution of India came into force

Che Guevara

ARGENTINEAN. 1928-1967

His face symbolises revolution, perhaps more than any other. Che Guevara (née Ernesto Guevara de la Serna) was another revolutionary who bought into the dream of communism, believing it to be a remedy for the poverty and corruption he'd witnessed first-hand as a doctor in Latin America. Four years after meeting the Castro brothers in 1955, they had toppled the US-backed Cuban dictator, Fulgencio Batista. By 1965, however, Guevara's desire to take communism elsewhere had alienated him, and he struck off on his own. He met a grisly end while fighting the Bolivian government.

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Spartacus

THRACIAN 73 BCE

From 73-71 BCE, Thracian gladiator-general Spartacus and a few other notable slave leaders led a major slave uprising against the Roman Republic, in the Third Servile War. The conflict caused the deaths of thousands of slaves and soldiers, and only ended when Roman general Marcus Licinius Crassus finally defeated Spartacus on the banks of the river Sele.

EMMELINE PANKHURST

ENGLISH. 1858-1928

Emmeline Pankhurst was a hugely influential figure on democracy in Britain, and leader of the suffragette movement. After her husband, a supporter of women's suffrage, died in 1898, she set up the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) with a simple agenda: 'deeds, not words'. Members embarked on a campaign of rallies, hunger strikes and arson, though activism was put on hold during WWI. Pankhurst's headstrong and ironically autocratic style of leadership made her something of a love-hate figure. Nevertheless, shortly before she died in 1928, she saw her goal achieved with the passing of the Equal Franchise Act.

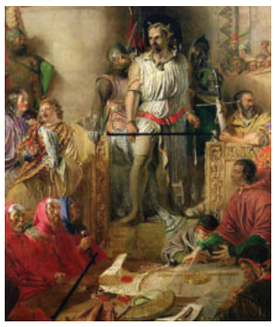
Pankhurst travelled widely to deliver her speeches

MAO ZEDONG

CHINESE. 1893-1976



Mao Zedong, or Chairman Mao, oversaw China's transition from a feudal state to the socialist People's Republic of China. His Great Leap Forward campaign, which aimed to restructure the economy and rapidly increase industrialisation, was a disaster. It triggered a counter-revolution in the Sixties, in which over a million people are believed to have died. Maoist suppo rters, however, celebrate his reforms to education health care and his hauling of China into the 20th century.



William Wallace

SCOTS. 1270-1305

As Guardian of Scotland, William Wallace led the Scots in a rebellion against King Edward I of England. He battled to drive the English out of Scotland, but was defeated and fled to Europe to gather more support for the cause. He was eventually captured and faced charges of treason, before being hung, drawn and quartered.

AUNG SAN SUU KYI

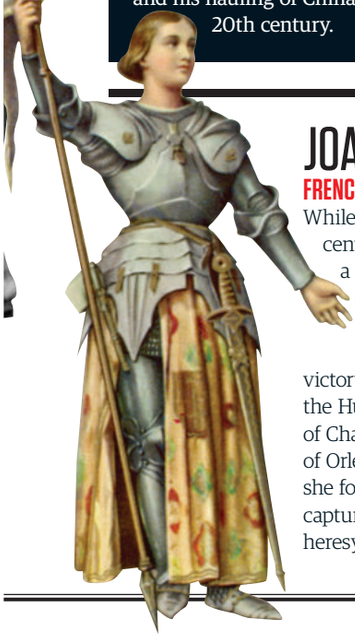
BURMESE. 1945-PRESENT

Revolutions are as common today as they were in the past and Burma's pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, is living testament to this.

After studying in England, she returned to Burma in 1988. Following in her father's footsteps, Suu Kyi took up the fight against the country's junta dictatorship, joining the National League for Democracy. Despite a landslide victory at a 1990 election, the government refused to recognise the result and Suu Kyi was placed under house arrest. She has been released and detained several times since, and survived assassination attempts, but now she's closer than ever to realising her dream.

"For me, 'revolution' simply means radical change"

Aung San Suu Kyi



JOAN OF ARC

FRENCH. 1412-1431

While female warriors weren't unheard of in 15th-century France, Joan of Arc (Jeanne d'Arc) made a greater mark than most. During her early teens, this farmer's daughter claimed to have experienced a series of divine visions. Convinced that she could lead France to victory over the English – who looked set to win the Hundred Years' War – Joan earned the favour of Charles VII, who entrusted her to end the Siege of Orléans in 1429. After a resounding success, she fought in several other battles, but was then captured in 1430 and later burned at the stake for heresy. She was just 19 when she died.

Vladimir Lenin

RUSSIAN. 1870-1924



Vladimir Lenin (née Ulyanov) travelled to Europe in 1900, launching socialist newspaper *Iskra* and leading the Bolshevik faction of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party. On returning to Russia in 1917, Lenin found his country on its knees, and by that October he and the Bolsheviks were staging a revolution.



Aung San Suu Kyi took her seat as a member of the Burmese parliament in 2012

© Getty Images, Corbis, Alamy

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Day in the life

A ROUNDHEAD SOLDIER

THE SUPPORTERS OF PARLIAMENT WHO FOUGHT AGAINST KING CHARLES I

ENGLISH CIVIL WAR, 1642 – 1651

When King Charles I became monarch of England, Scotland and Ireland in 1625, he found himself in a power struggle with the English Parliament. Charles I believed in the 'Divine Right of Kings' while Parliament believed that they should hold power as elected representatives. Parliament was becoming increasingly uncooperative and this bitter feud led to the English Civil War. Royalist forces or "Cavaliers" backed Charles I, while Parliament supporters or "Roundheads" - led by Cromwell and General Fairfax- would fight against them. So what was daily life like among the puritan ranks of the New Model Army?

PRAYER AND PERSONAL GROOMING

The Puritan beliefs of Roundheads saw them begin each day with prayer, some Roundheads also using the early morning as a time to reflect and meditate on the day ahead. If necessary, Roundheads would also closely crop their hair to reflect their plain, conservative lifestyle. The resulting haircut was what led to their derogatory 'roundhead' name.



It was their closely cropped haircut that gave them their derisive name

MORNING BREAKFAST

Roundhead soldiers weren't wealthy, with some of their ranks even being drawn from the unemployed, and this was reflected in the first meal of the day. Breakfast would typically be cheese and bread or salted fish (usually herring) with water to drink. Soldiers on the march would be lucky to even be granted that small luxury and would be expected to forage or hunt for food.

MILITARY TRAINING

Muskets were becoming fairly commonplace in battle and one of the key advantages they held over the longbowmen they replaced is that it took just a few days to train a musketeer. However, practicing formations wasn't quite as simple for either musketeers or pikemen - both of whom

How do we know this?

The definitive text on Roundheads is *Cavaliers and Roundheads: English at War 1642–1649* by Christopher Hibbert, which goes into great detail on how the conflict developed. Another text worthy investigating is the hefty *Atlas of the English Civil War* by PR Newman. This is covers the periods leading up to the conflict and also the fallout, as the Roundheads took hold of England following their defeat of the Cavaliers.



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"Practising formation rather than practising with the weaponry itself was very much part of a Roundhead's daily routine"

made up the bulk of the Roundhead ranks - and so practising formation rather than practising with the weaponry itself was very much part of a Roundhead's daily routine.

REMOVING ARMOUR

Musketeers did not wear armour but pikemen, who made up the majority of the Roundhead army, were not as fortunate. The breast plate and pot helmet were hot and heavy to wear and one of the few pleasures pikemen could look forward to after a day of training was removing the items. By contrast, the main concern for musketeers at the end of the day was ensuring their gunpowder didn't become damp, which would render their muskets useless.

RECREATION TIME

Roundheads were great smokers of tobacco, in contrast to the Cavaliers, whose use of the weed was less certain. As Roundheads frowned upon other leisurely activities common at the time - such as attending theatre - and as options for entertainment were limited for practical reasons during marches, smoking pipes was one of the few recreational activities they'd enjoy on a daily basis.

RELIGIOUS SINGING

Religion was a recurring theme to a Roundhead's day and while prayer meetings and psalm sessions would occur during the day, there would also be a lot of religious singing in the taverns and inns where they would retire at the end of the day. This is particularly true of soldiers who weren't in march (and therefore away from nearby towns) or those defending themselves from Royalist siege (to keep up their morale).

SLEEP

Whether it was out in the field or in a town, the military ranks were displayed through sleeping arrangements, just as they were through morning breakfast. Roundhead soldiers had to organise small parties to guard the camp (out in the field) or entry points such as bridges (if they were holding a town), while senior officers could sleep in a tent or a nearby inn.



A typical Roundhead would retire to a nearby Tavern

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How to make...

RUSSIAN BLACK BREAD

A STAPLE FOOD OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION. 1917



Ingredients

- One cup of warm water (about 45 degrees Celsius)
- Molasses (about one third of a cup)
- Yeast (about 14-15 grams)
- Salt (2 teaspoons)
- Rye flour (ideally dark, and approximately five cups)
- Caraway seeds

The shortage of black bread during WWI was a contributory cause of the Russian Revolution of 1917. So much so that Lenin's revolutionary Bolsheviks adopted the slogan 'Peace, Land and Bread.' Discover how you can re-create this Russian dietary staple.

METHOD

There are many ways to make Russian black bread, but this is one of the simplest and plainest recipes – and therefore probably more contemporaneous and authentic to early-20th-century Russia. Perhaps the most important thing to remember here is that Russian black bread isn't meant to be literally black.

01 Carefully mix together one third of a cup's worth of molasses and one cup of warm water, then stir. Sprinkle yeast over the top of the water and molasses mixture and then leave it to stand until there is a foam-like consistency. This will take at least five minutes.

02 Next, add around two and a half cups of rye flour and beat until smooth. Now stir in the two teaspoons of salt.

03 Cover the mixture with a cloth and then leave it to rise in a warm place – a recently heated but now cooling oven might be required to provide a suitably warm location – for around half an hour.

04 Steadily add more rye flour into the mixture until the dough is stiff. Knead the dough on a floured surface until stiff but still slightly sticky. Carefully form the dough mixture into a ball and then grease a bowl. Place the mixture in the bowl, cover just as you did before, and then replace it into a warm environment to rise – this will take two or three hours.

05 Place the dough mixture on a floured surface once again and gently knead out the air bubbles. Now it's time to knead and roll the dough into the desired shape and place it on a lightly greased pan. Cover the pan with cling film and return it to a warm place once again to rise – this will take another one to two hours.

06 The next step in the process is to preheat your oven to 175 degrees Celsius or 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Before going any further, remember to take the plastic wrap away from the bread. Lightly baste the top of your loaf in oil and add a sprinkling of caraway seeds. When the oven has preheated to the correct temperature, bake your Russian black bread loaf in the oven for between 35 and 40 minutes.

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BAYONET

THE SHARP END OF THE SOLDIERS' WEAPON

Used for close-quarters fighting and assaults. The introduction of bayonets did not occur until the early nineteenth century at Napoleon Bonaparte's insistence, who tried to restore some semblance of order to the army by also issuing them with knapsacks, water bottles, blankets and ammunition pouches for muskets.

JACKET

FRENCH FIRST REPUBLIC OR NATIONAL GUARDSMAN?

Those soldiers who had served under the monarchy prior to the formation of the French First Republic in 1792 generally wore white uniforms but the rest mostly wore the uniform of the National Guardsman with blue jackets and white turnbacks, as seen here.

CUTLASS

TRUSTY FRENCH STEEL FOR WHEN THE MUSKET FAILED

Following Napoleon's restructuring of the army in the early 1800s most infantrymen carried a Napoleonic Infantry Cutlass, officially known as a Briquet Sword, as a secondary weapon after their musket.

COCKADE

WEARING REVOLUTIONARY COLOURS WITH PRIDE

The French Revolutionary Army was an attempt to organise the ranks of revolutionaries from different classes after the fall of the monarchy under King Louis XVI in 1792, and thus the uniforms of different soldiers varied greatly, apart from the tricolour cockade worn by all soldiers.

THE Anatomy of

A FRENCH REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER

A LINE INFANTRYMAN OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTIONARY ARMY. FRANCE, 1792-1804

TROUSERS

A MAN'S PANTS SAID A LOT ABOUT HIS BACKGROUND

The bulk of the early French Revolutionary Army was made of sans-culottes from the lower classes, which translates, referring to their wearing of pantalons (trousers) as opposed to the fashionable culottes (silk breeches, as can be seen here) of the wealthier revolutionaries.

MUSKET

MANY SOLDIERS HAD TO STEAL THEIR OWN FIREARMS

Not all soldiers were lucky enough to get a weapon in the first few years of the army, owing to a shortage of both weapons and ammunition. Often they were equipped only with stolen weapons, until around 1800 when most were armed with the Charlesville Flintlock Musket, seen here.

SHOES

NO SUCH THING AS ARMY ISSUE IN THIS ARMY

Most soldiers of the French Revolutionary Army were conscripts chosen by lottery but, as most of the upper classes were able to bribe their way out of conscription, the army was largely composed of poorer civilians clad in their own shoes and hats owing to a shortage of proper clothing.

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How to DEFEND A FORT

FORTS PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION 1775-1783

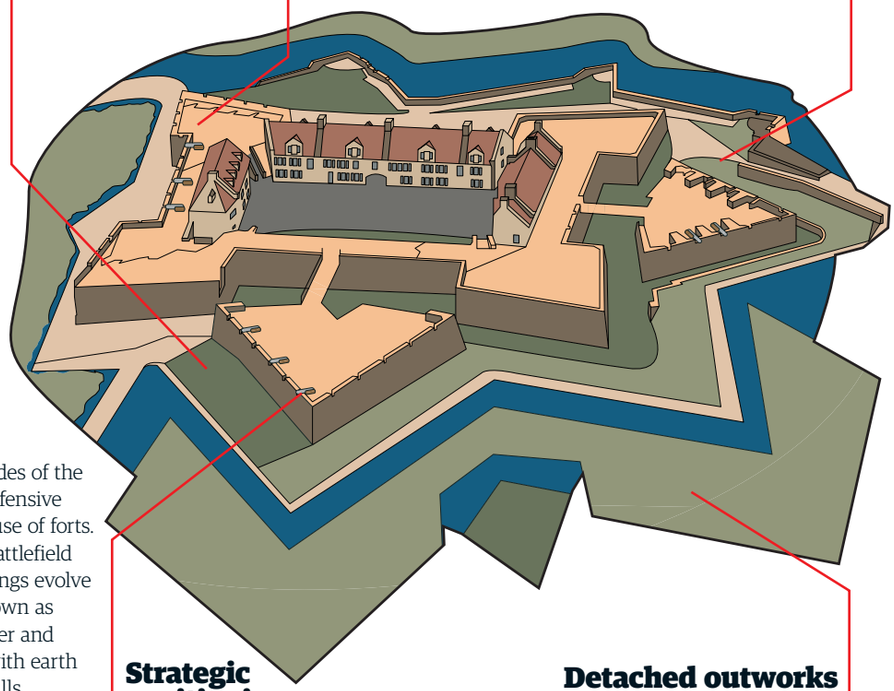
During the American War of Independence, forces on both sides of the conflict sought to strengthen defensive positions through the strategic use of forts. The arrival of cannons on the battlefield had seen many defensive buildings evolve into the style of fortification known as a star fort. Walls were made lower and thicker, and often surrounded with earth to absorb the force of cannon balls. Although not invulnerable, a well-drilled militia could successfully hold its position even when vastly outnumbered.

ANATOMY OF A STAR FORT

Glacis
The outer part of the star fort comprised a glacis (artificial slope) to minimise the impact of cannon fire.

Triangular bastions
Since each bastion of a star fort overlooked the other, its main purpose was to cover the other side.

Ditches/moats
The inner walls consisted of a glacis or moat (water-filled ditch) to slow down advancing opposition.



Strategic positioning
Cannons at the base of one end of the star would cover the tips of both adjacent ends.

Detached outworks
Ravelins, tenailles, hornworks and crownworks were different types of detached outworks that provided added security measures to star forts.

REVOLUTIONARY FORTS

FORT WASHINGTON
NEW YORK

Built in 1776, this fortification was created both to prevent the British from going up river and to provide a secure escape route.

FORT TICONDEROGA
NEW YORK

Built by the French during the Seven Years' War (1756-1763), this large star fort sits near the southern end of Lake Champlain in upstate New York.

FORT MIFFLIN
PENNSYLVANIA

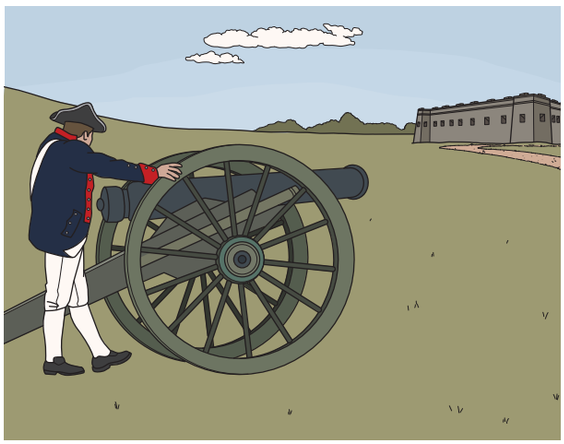
Fort Mifflin was commissioned in 1771 and built on Mud Island (aka Deep Water Island), on the Delaware River just below Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

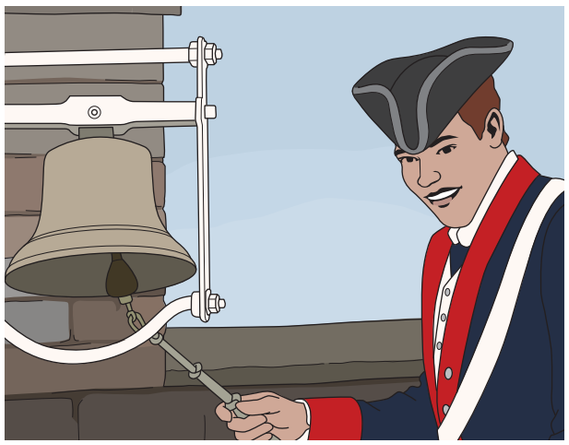
FORT MOULTRIE
SOUTH CAROLINA

Named after the commander at the Battle of Sullivan's Island, General William Moultrie, patriots built this fort to guard Charleston, South Carolina, in 1776.

FORT LEE
NEW JERSEY

Captured by British soldiers led by Lord Charles Cornwallis in November 1776, Washington had evacuated the fort, so many supplies were lost.





01 Stockpile ammunition & provisions

Secure adequate artillery and food for the garrison. This is a key factor in the successful defence of a fort. Fort warfare can last for anything from mere hours to days, weeks or even months. Preparation is essential but in the event of a surprise attack, the garrison must forage from all nearby sources, for artillery and ammunition.

02 Sound the alarm

This informs the men to arm themselves for battle and also signals to the enemy that their hideouts or movements have been spotted, and that battle is imminent. Each garrison has different ways of sounding an alarm, but they all mean one thing: threat, whether from a charging cavalry, enemy sightings or a surprise attack.

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How not to defend a fort

While it is true that a military force can hold a fort against far superior numbers, if there is one thing that military history has taught us it is that this is not a certainty. This was no truer than at the Battle of Fort Washington, where an army of over 8,000 British soldiers – bolstered with Hessian mercenaries – managed to overrun the tactically important fort on Manhattan Island, New York, which was being held by the United States with a force of 3,000 men.

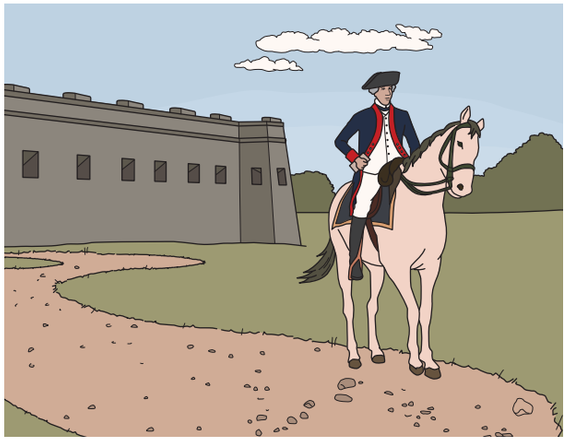
From an American point of view, the defence was a disaster. There were far too few men left behind as a garrison and the established defensive lines were not manned nor held properly. Coupled with a poor use of the fort's sizeable allotment of cannons, this meant that Fort Washington fell within hours. A whopping 2,837 of the 3,000-strong American force were taken prisoner, 59 were killed and 96 more wounded.





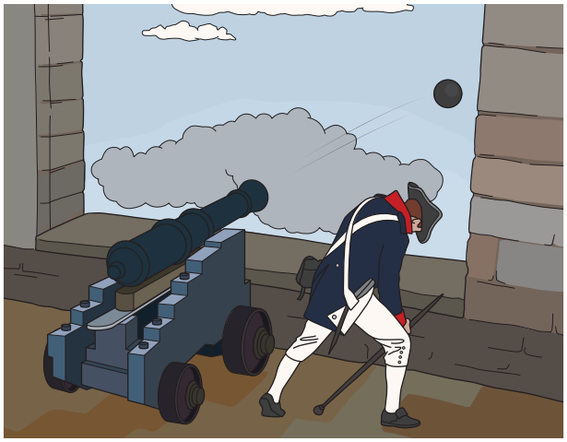
03 Reconnoiter

Next deploy sentries to reconnoiter the opposition's battalion, ammunition and numbers, and to identify any chinks in their armour – vigilance is paramount during battle. Sentries, skirmishers and patrols positioned at strategic locations warn of reinforcements or changes in the attackers' movements, and cover every vantage point.



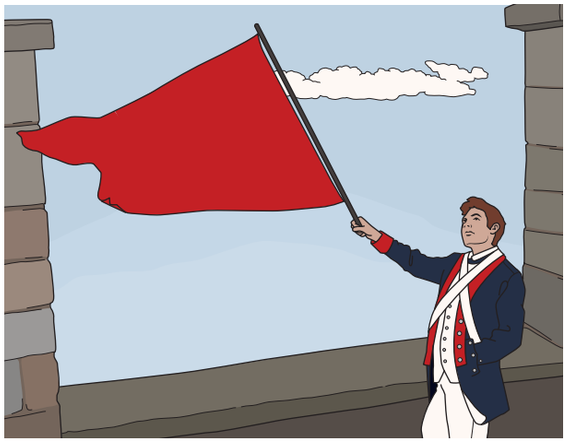
04 Prepare for the worst

Prepare some fallback strategies. These include sounding a request for parley or otherwise buying time until couriers can be dispatched to nearby allies, calling for immediate reinforcement and militia. These also include secret rendezvous encounters and counter-attacking strategies. Even weather disruptions have paused major battles in history.



05 Hold. Steady. Fire!

Lay down some fire. Cannons and mortars are the main weapons used in forts; gun and rifles are only used if the opposition is within range. Cannon fire is sometimes exchanged for days between the garrison and opposition before the next course of action – that being to deploy your cavalry upon seeing enemy advancement.



06 Raise the flag

Raise the fort's victor flag to signal the end of the battle and indicate to troops on the battlefield that a winner has been declared. Likewise, if a fort or its garrison sustains severe losses, they lower their flag in order to signify a declaration or an agreement to call a truce, so as to avoid any further loss of militia.

OTHER TYPES OF FORT

MEDIEVAL FORTS

WALLS OF DUBROVNIK, CROATIA

The fortification of Dubrovnik's outer walls sheltered a republic that prospered in peace for over five centuries.



POLYGONAL FORTS

FORT DELIMARA, MALTA

Explosive shells led to star forts becoming insecure and gave rise to polygonal forts, as seen in Delimara and Madliena in Malta.



ANCIENT FORTS

GREAT WALL OF CHINA

This iconic wall was first built during the Qin Dynasty (221-206 BCE), though its present form was constructed by the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644 CE).



HILL FORTS

MAIDEN CASTLE, UK

Among the largest and most complex of the Iron Age hill forts in Europe, Maiden Castle once protected over 3,000 people.



© Ben Hasler/rbillustration.com/Nagyman

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Top 5 facts ISAMBARD KINGDOM BRUNEL

ENGINEER AND INNOVATOR, A TOWERING ICON OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION
ENGLAND, 1806-1859



ISAMBARD KINGDOM BRUNEL
British, 1806-1859

Brief Bio

Isambard Kingdom Brunel, born in Portsmouth, 9 April 1806, was an engineer and innovator, whose designs and constructions revolutionised the industry and helped shape the framework of the nation. After completing his studies in France, his first project was on the construction of the underwater Thames Tunnel, at the age of 20.

01 HIS CAREER NEARLY ENDED BEFORE IT BEGAN

After completing his studies in France, Brunel's first project was the construction of the underwater Thames Tunnel, which began in 1825. Brunel was put in charge as assistant engineer, and quickly distinguished himself, although he narrowly avoided drowning after part of the tunnel flooded in 1828.

02 His first major project was also his last

Brunel's first major commission was for a bridge spanning the Avon Gorge in Bristol, which he gained after winning a competition. Construction on what would become the Clifton Suspension Bridge was not completed until five years after his death. A plaque is placed on the bridge in his honour.

03 Brunel put the 'Great' in the Great Western Railway

After being appointed chief engineer of the Great Western Railway in 1833, Brunel rightly proved that broad gauge tracks were better than standard gauge ones. His impressive achievements include the Maidenhead Bridge and Bristol Temple Meads Station.

04 He built the first transatlantic steamship

Brunel was responsible for the design of the SS Great Britain, the world's first steamship to be purpose-built to complete transatlantic voyages. He also redesigned and helped construct a number of the UK's most important and major docks at the time - such as Cardiff, Bristol and Milford Haven.

05 It was a family-wide passion

A passion for architecture ran in the family. He worked with his father, Marc, during the construction of the Thames Tunnel, and his son, Henry Marc, later became a civil engineer, working on the design of the Blackfriars Railway Bridge and the MV (earlier SS) Chauncy Maples.

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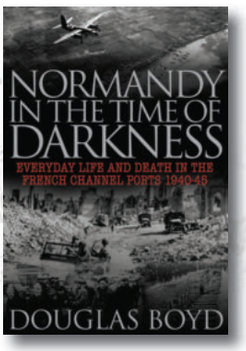
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Normandy's nightmare war...

Normandy in the Time of Darkness:
Everyday Life and Death in the French Channel Ports 1940-45

Douglas Boyd



This beautifully written new book documents the horrific four year long tragedy that was Normandy's war - occupied by the Germans, and bombed by the Allies. Narrated largely in the words of French, German and Allied eye witnesses, this volume captures the personal stories of survivors, including the heart-breaking last letters of executed hostages and résistants.

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CAVALRY

Good use of cavalry by Simón Bolívar and poor use of cavalry by his Spanish opposite, José Maria Barreiro, was arguably crucial in the Battle of Boyacá's outcome. Bolívar's cavalry remained free throughout the engagement, while Barreiro's was largely pinned down and trapped.

WEAPONS

Despite holding a numerical advantage over the Spanish forces, Bolívar's rebel army was, in general, nowhere near as well trained nor as well armed as that of the Spanish. Bolívar's good tactical use of his large musket-wielding infantry units, however, compensated for this.

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LEADER

A charismatic and experienced general, Bolívar was successful at Boyacá – and indeed throughout his campaign against the Spanish – as he successfully unified various independent forces from Colombia and Venezuela to rise up against the controlling foreign regime.

REBELS

Bolívar's army was constructed from rebels drawn from a variety of South American nations under Spanish control. These men had previously been engaging the Spanish sporadically under command of a series of warlords, however to limited success.

GREATEST BATTLES

BATTLE OF BOYACÁ

BOYACÁ, NEW GRANADA (MODERN-DAY COLOMBIA) 7 AUGUST 1819

The Battle of Boyacá was a key clash in the wars for Latin American independence. The fight was between a rebel army under the command of General Simón Bolívar and a Spanish-led army under the command of Colonel José Maria Barreiro. Today the battle is considered the turning point in the eventual separation of much of northern South America from rule by the Spanish monarchy, with Bolívar's actions paving the way for eventual independence for modern-day Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, as well as the creation of Bolivia.

The battle occurred around 93 miles northeast of the city of Bogotá, on the road from the town of Tunja. Bolívar had advanced into Colombia undetected via passing over the Andes Mountains with his army from Venezuela between May and July 1819. After surprising Spanish-led royalist forces with a series of battles prior to Boyacá, they now advanced in the open towards the city, which offered both little resistance in military might and also a perfect base for his liberation of the region.

Bolívar knew this and so did the younger Barreiro, who – as you'll see from our battle map events guide – attempted to cut off the leader's advance. Barreiro, despite being inexperienced, commanded a largely well-trained army, and as such was not perturbed by Bolívar's prior battles, believing he could end the rebel's advancement once and for all. Both armies marched with great speed towards Bogotá, each attempting to gain the upper hand through speed.

Despite gaining ground on Bolívar, Barreiro would eventually lose the Battle of Boyacá through a mixture of tactical errors and underestimation of Bolívar and his independent, rebel forces. By separating his forces into two groups, he made it easy for Bolívar to divide and conquer his troops – and with comparatively little bloodshed. Indeed, the scale of Bolívar's victory at Boyacá is no better emphasised than in the number of lost troops, with just 13 casualties on the republican side and only 100 on Barreiro's.

This was no meat grinder, and this was mainly testament to Bolívar's tactical prowess. By exploiting key parts of his forces, such as the British Legion, as well as using tactical positioning at the flanks of Barreiro's forces, Bolívar finally secured his most desired independence from the enemy by hardly spilling any of their blood at all.

While few of the Spanish-led force were killed, on 7 August 1819 a number of prisoners were taken. Of those – including Barreiro – 39 were executed under Bolívar's orders, with the executions taking place in the newly liberated city of Bogotá.

As news spread of Barreiro's defeat and execution, royalist leaders throughout the region such as Venezuela's General Pablo Morillo soon realised that the Spanish control of South America was on a knife-edge. The leaders quickly sent word to the Spanish mainland that more soldiers were needed imminently to stem the rebel uprising. However, despite a few more small batches of reinforcements emerging, no major backup arrived. This led to one last final, desperate showdown between the Spanish-led forces and those of Simón Bolívar two years later in 1821, which, as with the Battle of Boyacá, ended with a victorious Bolívar. From that point on, the Spanish no longer controlled South America.

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New Granada

TROOPS 3,400
CAVALRY 100
CANNONS 0



SIMÓN BOLÍVAR
COMMANDER IN CHIEF

A native to Venezuela, Bolívar was both a military and political leader. He was a key player in Latin America's independence from the Spanish Empire.
Strengths Popular, brave and unifying leader with extensive military experience
Weakness Power-hungry and a dictator in later life



BRITISH LEGION
IMPORTANT UNIT

A well-trained group of veteran and mercenary soldiers, the British Legion were pivotal at Boyacá, taking out Barreiro's artillery and pinning down his flanking cavalry.
Strength Veteran soldiers who volunteered to fight
Weakness Not native to South America and mercenaries



MUSKET
KEY WEAPON

Bolívar's forces were not well outfitted with advanced weaponry, relying on numbers and surprise attacks to gain the upper hand. Musket-wielding infantry, however, played a key part in forcing a Spanish surrender.
Strength Cheap and easily accessible even to rebel forces
Weakness Inaccurate at distance and slow to reload

01 The race begins

After clashing on 25 July at the Battle of Vargas – a clash that ended in a draw – Bolívar plots a direct course for Bogotá as it will give him a tactical advantage over Barreiro and the Spanish royalist forces. He arrives in Tunja, northeast of Bogotá and takes the town with ease. Barreiro hears of Bolívar's capture of Tunja and realising Bolívar's intended destination, makes haste towards the city.

02 Barreiro reaches the river

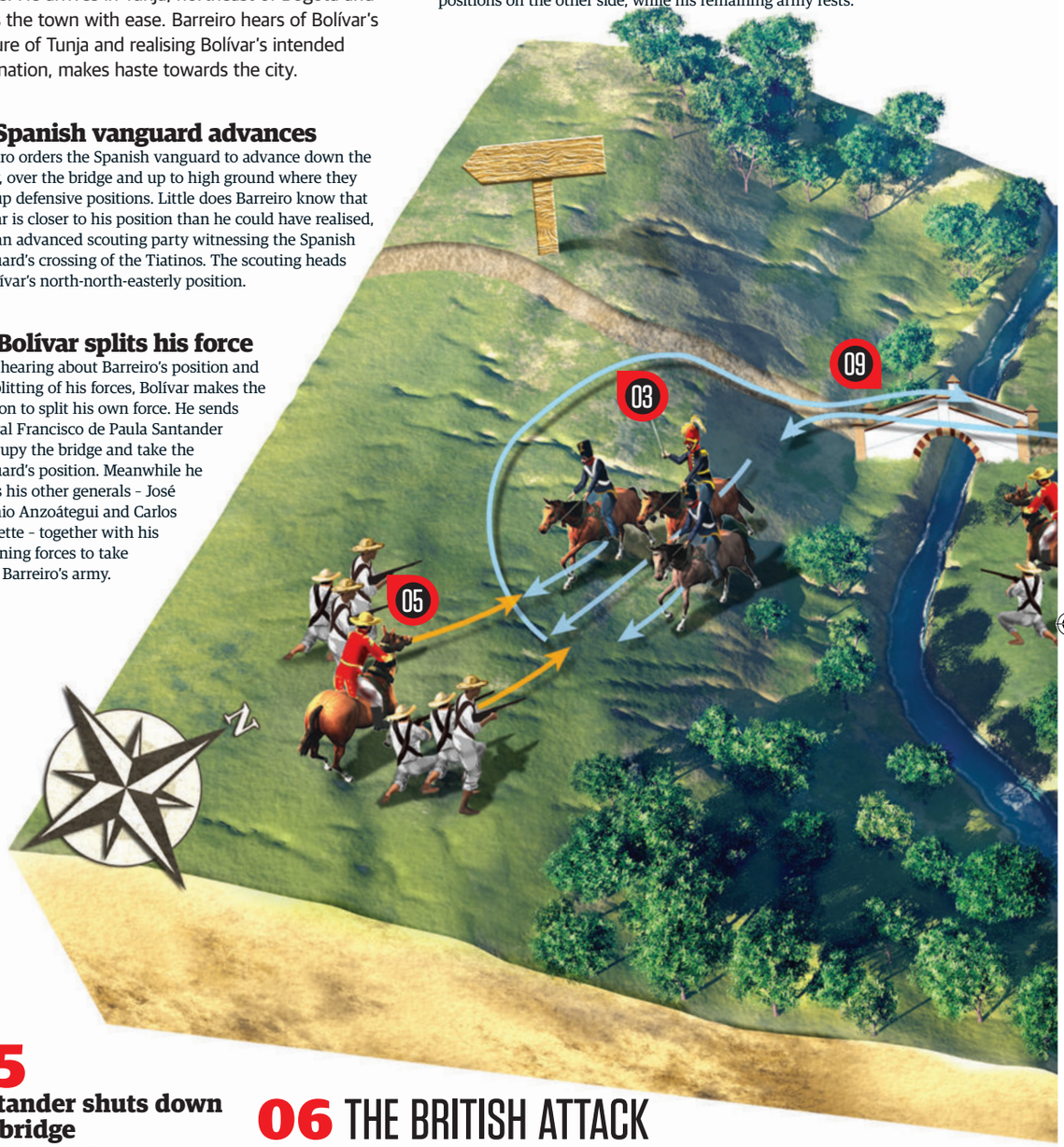
In advance of Bolívar, Barreiro reaches the Boyacá River and decides that it would be a good place to both intercept Bolívar's forces and refresh his march-weary troops. Halting roughly half a mile from the river's crossing, Barreiro orders his most experienced troops, an elite vanguard of 1,000 infantry and cavalry to cross the bridge and take-up advantageous positions on the other side, while his remaining army rests.

03 Spanish vanguard advances

Barreiro orders the Spanish vanguard to advance down the valley, over the bridge and up to high ground where they take-up defensive positions. Little does Barreiro know that Bolívar is closer to his position than he could have realised, with an advanced scouting party witnessing the Spanish vanguard's crossing of the Tiatinos. The scouting heads to Bolívar's north-north-easterly position.

04 Bolívar splits his force

Upon hearing about Barreiro's position and the splitting of his forces, Bolívar makes the decision to split his own force. He sends General Francisco de Paula Santander to occupy the bridge and take the vanguard's position. Meanwhile he orders his other generals – José Antonio Anzoátegui and Carlos Soublette – together with his remaining forces to take down Barreiro's army.



05 Santander shuts down the bridge

On these orders from Bolívar, Santander takes his troops and charges the bridge. The vanguard see them coming yet are not expecting the attack so soon, and the area around the bridge quickly descends into chaos. The vanguard hold better positions than Santander's troops but cannot make any headway and become locked down on the Bogotá-side of the river.

06 THE BRITISH ATTACK

Barreiro's main army now has around 1,800 troops, split between infantry and cavalry units, plus three cannons. Suddenly aware that Bolívar is attacking, Barreiro attempts to marshal his disorientated forces and position them for the assault. Before he gets the chance, however, the British Legions fighting under Bolívar and led by Commander Arthur Sandes, charge and engage Barreiro's artillery units.

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10 BARREIRO CAPTURED AND CONCLUSION

Now surrounded, Barreiro surrenders to Bolívar. Barreiro's army suffered over 100 deaths, 150 injuries and 1,600 taken prisoner. Bolívar's forces suffered 13 dead and 53 injured, with no prisoners taken. It's a victory for Bolívar who takes Bogotá unopposed.



07 Barreiro attempts to reach the vanguard

With his cannons taken out and his army in disarray, Barreiro attempts to move forward to rendezvous with the elite vanguard who, unknown to him, are still pinned down by Santander on the other side of the river. Collecting what little of his forces were not occupied, he attempts to navigate the unfolding chaos.

08 Anzoátegui cuts off the main force

Barreiro's progress is short-lived as General Anzoátegui swings his forces around and creates a barrier between the Spanish General and the bridge over the Boyacá River, effectively trapping he and his remaining forces from three different sides. Many of the Spanish-led main force proceed to retreat or surrender.

09 Vanguard advances then retreats

The Spanish vanguard push to the river and drive back Bolívar's forces, but it's too late. The troops must leave their leader Colonel Juan Taira stranded on the Boyacá bridge. Taira and the vanguard are taken prisoner.



Spain

TROOPS 2,800
CAVALRY 160
CANNONS 3



JOSÉ MARIA BARREIRO

COMMANDER IN CHIEF

José Barreiro was an academically well-trained military commander who, prior to arriving in South America, had been stationed in Seville, Spain.
Strengths Young and brave officer who was academically gifted
Weakness Overconfident and lacked military experience



DRAGOON

IMPORTANT UNIT

The Spanish dragoons brought mobility and speed to the battlefield. These could have been pivotal to a Spanish victory had they been used differently.
Strength Fast, well-trained mounted infantry with muskets
Weakness Easy to break formation, and poor defensively



ARTILLERY CANNON

KEY WEAPON

The better-equipped force, the Spanish had a brace of artillery cannons. These were deadly in open clashes to infantry and cavalry alike.
Strength Immensely damaging to both men and buildings
Weakness Expensive, and requiring expert handling in order to operate effectively

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Eye Witness

THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F KENNEDY DALLAS, USA 22 NOVEMBER 1963

Written by Jodie Tyley

HUGH AYNESWORTH



He's been dubbed 'the man who saw too much', having witnessed the assassination of John F Kennedy and the shooting of the killer Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack Ruby. Hugh Aynesworth was the Aerospace Editor for *The Dallas Morning News* but fast became an acclaimed investigative journalist, nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for Reporting six times.

> "I heard what I thought was a motorcycle backfire. Then I heard the second shot and immediately I realised it was a rifle"

Hugh Aynesworth was standing across the street from the sniper nest, on the day the United States' President John F Kennedy was shot. It wasn't seen as the prime spot for watching the President's parade through Dallas, but it turned out to be the most eventful stretch of the entire motorcade as the limousine made the sharp left turn onto Elm Street and mere moments later, the fatal shots were fired.

32-year-old Aynesworth was there by chance. "I went to the motorcade because almost everyone else in *The Dallas Morning News* newsroom did the same," he recalls. "Most of them had assignments but I had freedom until 3pm so I thought I'd walk over the four blocks. You don't see a President every day!" Aynesworth's usual beat was space exploration and he was Aviation and Aerospace Editor during the Space Race between the US and the Soviet Union. But there was no escaping the buzz around the President's impending visit, especially after speaking with a group of "arch Conservatives" the day before. "The people that hated Kennedy were going to show up with picket signs and dress in Uncle Sam suits and just show him that they didn't like him and they didn't like his policies," he says. "They wanted publicity and, the day before, the editor sent me to interview a couple of them and they told me they were going to embarrass him in some way at the Trade Mart. Although we expected some picketing and angry shouting perhaps, nobody expected any real trouble."

There was a good turnout along Main Street so in a bid to bag a better view, Aynesworth went to the corner of Elm Street in front of the County Records Building. "The mood of the crowd was jubilant, happy, pleased and impressed with the young President and his beautiful lady," he says. "Everyone was relieved because we'd had that horrible hate JFK ad in the *Dallas News* and people were expecting there to be an embarrassment of sorts. So by the time Kennedy arrived in mid-town, there were cheers of relief." Aynesworth saw the presidential limo take the left at the corner where he stood and remembers the smiling faces of John F Kennedy, his wife Jacqueline, and the Governor of Texas John Connally as they waved to the crowd. "They were very happy, they would have known the reputation of some of these trouble makers," he says. "It was just a happy, happy occasion. Within seconds, it changed."

A shot fired and the President seized his throat, another two shots and his head exploded. "Seconds after the Kennedy car passed, I heard what I thought was a motorcycle backfire," he says. "Seconds later I heard the second shot and immediately I realised it was a rifle shot. Then a third ensued rapidly." In the minutes that followed, panic rippled through the crowd. "People close to me reacted with alarm: some shielded their children, a couple screamed, a couple more threw up their lunch. With the unusual layout of Dealey Plaza, nobody immediately knew what had happened or from where the shots came. Or, for that matter, how many people were shooting and if there were more shots to come. One of the first remarks was from a man who said he had seen Vice President Johnson hit. A motorcycle

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The day a President died

CST

11.40am **Air Force One touches down**



12.10pm **Motorcade enters Dealey Plaza**

12.15pm **Arrival at the Dallas Trade Mart**

12.29pm **Presidential limousine enters Dealey Plaza**

12.30pm **Shots are fired**

12.33pm **Lee Harvey Oswald leaves Texas Book Depository**



12.33pm – 12.50pm **Depository Building sealed off**

1pm **President Kennedy pronounced dead**

1.04pm **Oswald seen waiting at bus stop**

1.15pm **Police officer JD Tippit murdered**

1.22pm **Police discover rifle**

1.33pm **Press Secretary makes official announcement**

1.40pm **Oswald enters theatre**



1.50pm **Oswald arrest attempt made**

2pm **Kennedy's body driven to Air Force One**

2.38pm **Lyndon Johnson becomes 36th President**

cop told two women in front of me that the president had been hit. I didn't know what to do, I thought about just running like hell but that layout is so unusual, a couple of buildings on a couple of sides and open space and we didn't know where the shots were coming from." Instead, his journalistic nature prevailed and he began to interview bystanders, writing on envelopes in his pocket.

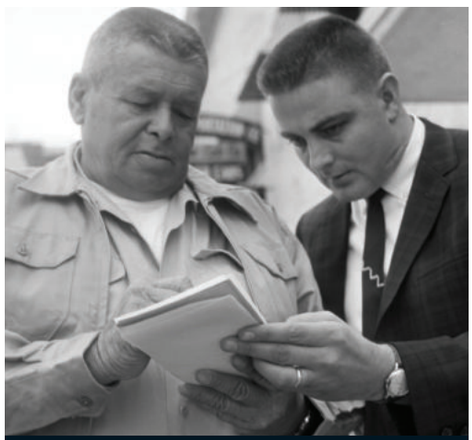
Even in the heat of the moment stories were contradictory, down to the number of shots fired. "The acoustics were so weird that no one knew what direction the shots were coming from," he reports. "There were all kinds of statements about seeing people in trees or on the grassy knoll. There were people that swore they'd heard 11 or 12 shots and one woman only heard one. I can guarantee you there were three shots. But most people were willing to talk apart from the people who had children and wanted to get the hell out of there." The only real witness according to Aynesworth was a man called Howard Brennan. "He was pointing up to the School Book Depository window, which was the building in front of me, and shouting 'He's up there, I saw him, I saw him.' So I ran over and tried to get him to talk to me but he got two policemen to push me away. Later he told me he was scared for his family because we didn't know if there was more than one person shooting."

Brennan's description of the suspected sniper, later named as Lee Harvey Oswald, was broadcast to law enforcements immediately. It was probably this account that prompted Dallas Police Officer JD Tippit to stop Oswald in the street at 1.15pm, 45 minutes after Kennedy was shot. "After being rebuffed by Brennan, I eased over to a police radio on a cycle," he says, recalling his efforts to learn about what had happened. "Then I heard the report of Officer Tippit being shot and I thought as it was only a few blocks away, it's bound to be connected somehow. I grabbed a television car with two reporters in it, told them what I heard and we sped like mad to the scene. We arrived before most of the cops got there and interviewed everyone we could find. I spoke to six people who had seen Oswald shoot him, or seen him run from the scene, or seen him plant or throw away shells. There were many eyewitnesses to the Tippit killing." Incidentally, this murder was the reason for Oswald's initial arrest, not Kennedy's.

A man-hunt ensued and a false alarm at a decrepit furniture store led to an officer falling through the ground with a bang. As the cops drew their pistols, Aynesworth became aware that he was the only man unarmed. "I thought, 'Boy, I gotta get out of here," he laughs. "Then we heard on the radio there was a suspect in the Texas Theatre," he tells us, "so I ran like hell for eight blocks." After speaking to the ticket seller Julia Postal, who couldn't recall whether the murderer had bought a ticket or not, he inched closer to the front of the theatre. "I peeked through the curtain and saw two men - one in uniform and the other in civilian clothing - coming up the aisles and talking to people who were there," he says, as he watched from a few feet away. "There were only 12 or 13 people in that lower part of the theatre and I saw who I later realised was Oswald shifting one seat over to the right and Officer McDonald told him to stand up. Oswald pulled a pistol out of his pocket and tried to shoot him, but somebody got their hand on the weapon, jammed the firing mechanism and saved him." The police captured him as he yelled, 'I protest this police brutality!'

It was at the theatre that Aynesworth discovered the President had died over a transistor radio. By that point, everyone was listening to the rolling news bulletins and this one stunned its audience. "I was shocked and hurt," he recalls. "It was an unbelievable day." Outside the theatre, a throng had gathered and were calling for the murderer's head. "They were an unruly, mad crowd of about two or three hundred people. They were yelling 'Kill that son of a bitch' and 'Get that communist!' There were people that would have tried to take him, and the police moved pretty fast and got him into a car outside the front door and held the crowd back." It quickly

> "I grabbed a television car with two reporters in it, told them what I heard and we sped like mad to the scene"

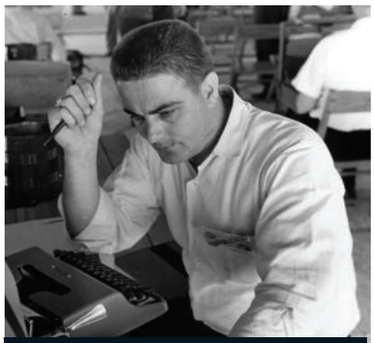


Hugh (right) interviewing a cab driver who unknowingly picked up Lee Harvey Oswald after the shooting.

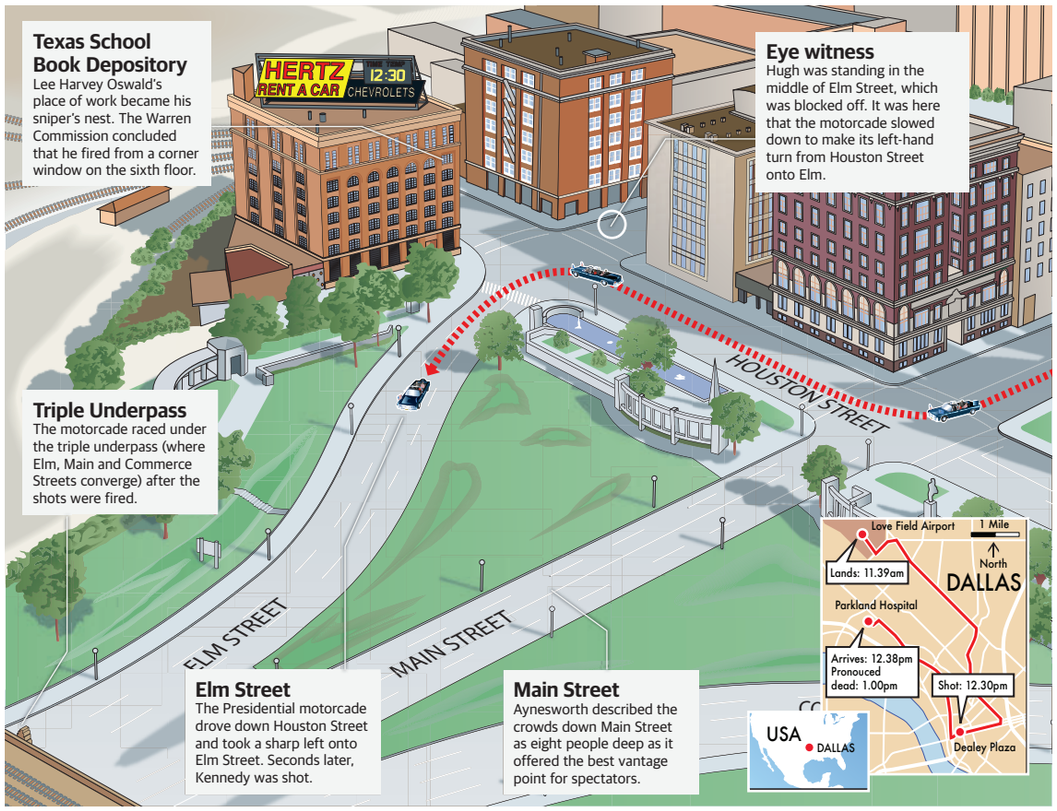


After he is sworn into office Lyndon B Johnson, together with Lady Bird and Judge Sarah T Hughes, comforts Jackie Kennedy

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Aynesworth worked on the *Dallas Morning News* at the time of the assassination



became public knowledge that the prime suspect, a former US Marine, had defected to the Soviet Union four years previously and returned with a Russian wife.

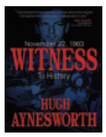
It was during the Cold War and tense relations between the US and the Soviet Union shaped the lives of Kennedy and Oswald, as well as the public's reaction to the assassination, fuelling speculation and conspiracy stories. For Aynesworth, there's no doubt who the killer was. "My thoughts on the Warren Commission? Essentially they got it right, but the investigation was too hurried and left many holes that they could have filled. There was considerable evidence against Oswald and absolutely no evidence of anyone assisting him. As a 65-year veteran of many murder trials, there was more evidence against Oswald than 90 per cent of those convicted in the trials I covered."

After the Kennedy shooting, Aynesworth worked solely on the assassination, which led him to break several stories. The first was how the killer fled the scene and arrived at his rooming house before travelling to his next murder, Officer Tippit, to the theatre where he was caught. Through investigative journalism, Aynesworth and reporter Larry Grove from *The Morning News* pieced together the route in the face of witnesses told to keep quiet by the FBI. Once they figured Oswald took a taxi after getting off the bus at Elm Street, they began catching taxis themselves. On every journey they'd replay the same conversation about 'what's-his-name, the guy who gave a ride to the man who shot the President', until the line finally snagged and one driver chirped up, 'You mean Louie?' A chat with Louie and the escape route was mapped out.

Aynesworth later bagged the first print interview with Marina Oswald and with it the scoop that she had persuaded her late husband not to assassinate Richard Nixon, a threat the widow hadn't even shared with the Warren Commission. But the biggest revelation was uncovering Oswald's Russian diary, which *The Dallas Morning News* ran with the splash 'Secret Diary – Oswald's Thoughts Bared.' And though Aynesworth can credit the breaking of these stories to his journalism, he knows it was just chance that placed him there that day of Kennedy's assassination. "It was just pure dumb luck," he resigns. "I wasn't assigned to any of it. I just made a good judgement when I thought someone shot the cop and I thought they were connected."



Hugh Aynesworth with Marina Oswald and her daughter, June



Hugh Aynesworth's *November 22, 1963 Witness To History* is released on 3 September, published by Brown Books Publishing Group. Available to pre-order via www.hughaynesworth.com.

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Origins and aftermath

With the US election looming the following year, President Kennedy made plans to visit Texas. He had just scraped a marginal win in 1960 and even lost in Dallas, so the quest for re-election began. Meanwhile, a month before the motorcade, Oswald started working at the Texas School Book Depository. This is where he would wait with a rifle, perched at a sixth-floor window, on the day of the Presidential motorcade. Kennedy was fatally shot, sparking a ten-month investigation by the Warren Commission. It named Lee Harvey Oswald as Kennedy's killer, but conspiracy theories dogged his death. Some speculate there were two snipers; others finger the CIA or the Cuban government. How could a US president be assassinated in the 20th century, and why?



The Warren Commission present its report to President Lyndon Johnson

© The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza; The Dallas Morning News; Ian Moores Graphics

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Bluffer's Guide
Ancient Maya

MAYAN CIVILISATION
MESOAMERICA 1800BCE-900CE



Who were they?
The Maya were one of the most prominent ancient civilisations of the cultural Americas. Like the Aztecs who later dominated the area in the 14th century, the Mayan race left behind vast and elaborate stone cities and documented evidence of their existence.

Class and society
Society was split into rigidly defined class structures and professions: the nobility, priesthood, common people and slaves. They were ruled by kings, or 'kuhul ajaw' (holy gods), who were viewed as semi-deity figures and representatives of the gods.

Where were they?
The Mayan civilisation spanned the breadth of ancient Mesoamerica, the name of the area that encompassed the Yucatán Peninsula and modern-day Guatemala, as well as parts of Belize, Honduras, El Salvador and a few of the states of Mexico.

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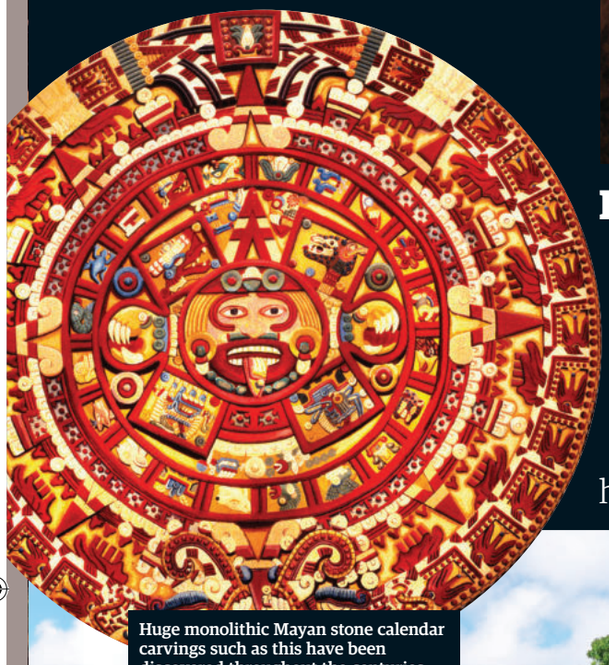
They loved sport

The Maya even had their own ball game, which involved bouncing a rubber ball through hoops located alongside a massive stone court. The games had enormous cultural significance, and are believed to have involved human sacrifices as part of the occasion.



Sacrifice and torture

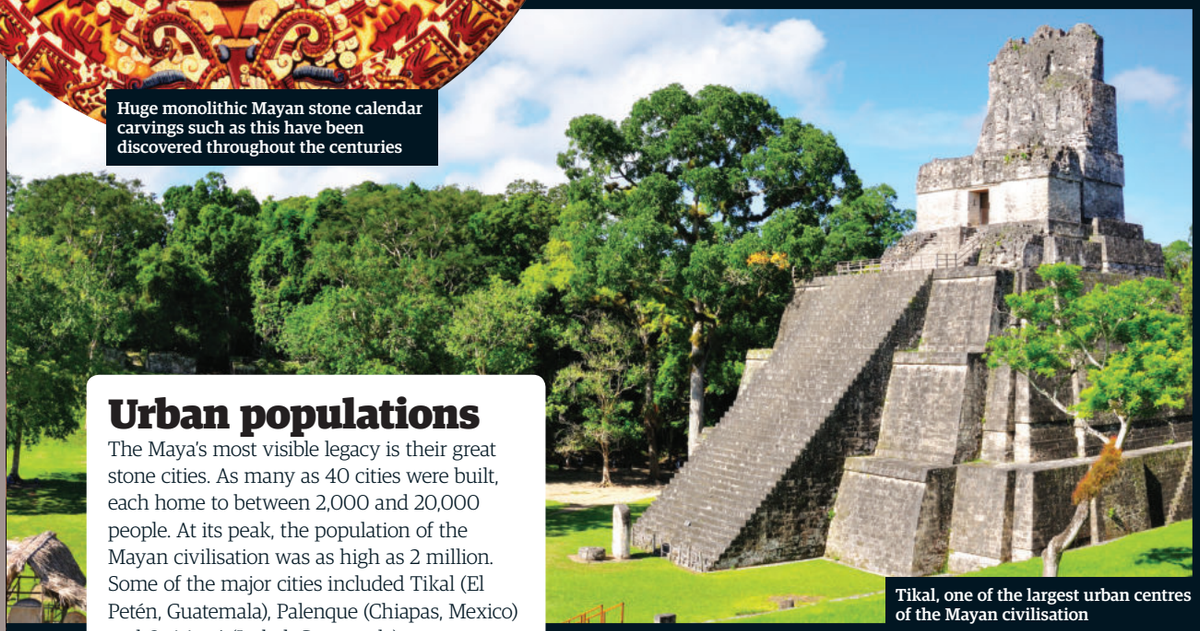
There is also a darker side to Mayan civilisation. There were frequent bloody civil wars between rival Mayan city states, and torture, self-mutilation and human sacrifice were vital components of their religious festivals, with bloodshed being believed to be necessary to sate the Gods.



Huge monolithic Mayan stone calendar carvings such as this have been discovered throughout the centuries

How advanced were they?

Evidence suggests the Maya were more advanced than other American civilisations of the time, notably in the fields of astronomy and mathematics, creating a 365-day calendar and using the number zero. They also wrote in hieroglyphics and made paper from bark.



Tikal, one of the largest urban centres of the Mayan civilisation

Urban populations

The Maya's most visible legacy is their great stone cities. As many as 40 cities were built, each home to between 2,000 and 20,000 people. At its peak, the population of the Mayan civilisation was as high as 2 million. Some of the major cities included Tikal (El Petén, Guatemala), Palenque (Chiapas, Mexico) and Quiriguá (Izabal, Guatemala).

Trade and commerce

Much of the Mayan civilisation was based on using local resources, like the rainforests, to their advantage, participating in long-distance trading with other Mesoamerican races. Routes were established stretching from the Gulf of Mexico to Colombia, in addition to sea routes to the Caribbean islands.

The unexplained apocalypse

Between 800 and 900 CE, the Maya fell into decline. Cities were abandoned until the civilisation had all but vanished. The reason for this remains inconclusive, but while some blame overpopulation and war, recent theories suggest it was a weather phenomenon such as drought.

Key figures

Pakal the Great
603-683 CE
This Mayan emperor ruled for 80 years. He was behind some of Maya's finest architecture.

K'inich Kan B'alam II
635-702 CE
K'inich Kan B'alam II was the son of Pakal. He was responsible for building the famous three-temple complex in Palenque.

Jasaw Chan K'awiil I
682-734 CE
The ruler of Tikal (one of the biggest Mayan cities) who cemented strength with victory against rival city Calakmul.

Yik'in Chan K'awiil
734-766 CE
Yik'in is the son of Jasaw. He consolidated his father's reign by greatly expanding the great city of Tikal.

Itzamná
N/A
The Mayan god of agriculture, creation, writing and healing was Itzamná, which roughly translates as 'iguana house'.

Major events

Mayan alphabet
700 BCE
The first developed system of written language is introduced among Mayans in the pre-Columbian Americas.

Hierarchical system
300 BCE
The hierarchical system of ruling with kings and nobles is adopted by the Mayans.

Teotihuacán built
100 BCE
This was the largest and most significant of the Mayan cities. It was the trading centre of Mesoamerica.

Destruction of Teotihuacán
750 CE
An unknown event – possibly a fire during a civil war – destroys the city, marking the beginning of the decline.

End of the Mayans
900 CE
The ancient city of Tikal is abandoned, which indicates the end of the Classic Mayan civilisation.

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What if...
The slave states had won?

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR. 1865

Written by Jonathan O'Callaghan

PROFESSOR AARON SHEEHAN-DEAN



Aaron Sheehan-Dean is the Fred C. Frey Professor of Southern Studies at Louisiana State University. He is the author of titles such as Why Confederates Fought: Family and Nation in Civil War Virginia and the Concise Historical Atlas of the U.S. Civil War, and also the editor of several books. He teaches a number of courses on 19th century US history, including the Civil War and Reconstruction and also Southern History.

What if the slave states had won?

There were two major accomplishments of the civil war, and they are the preservation of the Union and emancipation. If the Union hadn't stayed together – that is, if the United States had broken into two – then it's likely that other regions of the US would have taken advantage of Confederate seccession or would have seceeded themselves, either from the then-existing North or the South. So you could certainly see an independent Midwest, and the area from California through to Washington state probably could have made itself its own place. Even within the Confederacy, there were certainly sections like East Tennessee that were vigorously Unionist during the war, and which might have pulled away. This was one of the major arguments against seccession to begin with – where did it stop? So I expect that it would have continued; that process of creating smaller autonomous republics within the space that is today the continental United States.

So the United States would have been a series of smaller countries rather than one whole one?

Yes – the United States is bigger than continental Europe, so there's no reason why it couldn't be 45 independent republics. We tend to look at the shape of the US and regard it as somehow inevitable that it would go from the Atlantic to the Pacific, but there's no reason that it's inevitable.

Would slavery still have been abolished?

The question of emancipation has broader global implications, including that slavery would not have ended in 1863. There's no reason to think that if the Confederate states had won the war – not necessarily conquering the North, but at least fighting to a draw – they would have voluntarily given up slavery. Certainly not any time in the rest of the 19th century. World opinion could have turned to the point that they would voluntarily relinquish slavery in the 20th century, but even that is hard to imagine playing out. That then has implications for Brazil and other nations holding power in the Western hemisphere, some of which emancipated their slaves after the US civil war, because they had seen what happened in the US and wanted to avoid that kind of bloody confrontation. So instead, you've got a very different future where slave labour has a new lease of life. We're talking about a 20th century in which slavery is a vital part of the labour scheme and the social and political structures of large countries in the Western hemisphere.

If the US had permanently divided into North and South, could either have thrived?

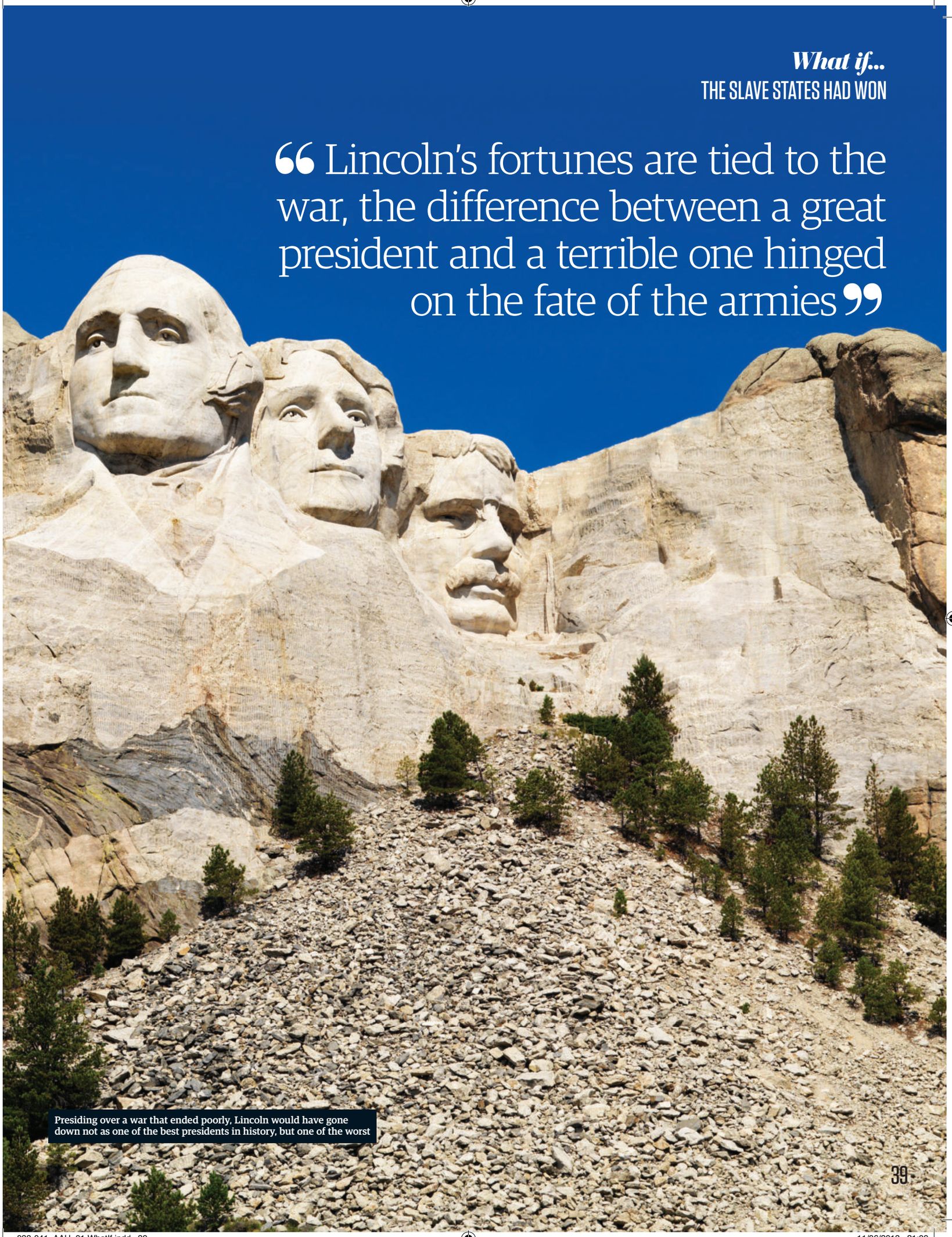
In global terms, from the perspective of Britain and France, it would have been a very good thing to divide the US in half. Both those empires would have breathed a sigh of relief, because by 1860 the entire US already had the largest economy in the world, but separately the North and South didn't. The South would have needed to buy a huge amount of manufactured goods from the North, so there might have been some kind of agreement between the two, although the unpleasant war would have left the South turning towards European manufacturers, pursuing trade agreements with European nations, sooner than it would have turned to the North. In 1860, while the South was rich and productive, it was apparent that the development path the North was on – towards more intensive industrial and urban development – was the recipe for future success. By 1890 or 1900 it would have been apparent that basing your economy around the production of staple crops, like the South had done with cotton, rice, sugar and tobacco, was not a good long term strategy, so the North would've been in a much better position.

Would the US still have entered World War I?

If the South had started making trade agreements with Britain, it would have soured relations between the North and the UK, and that might well have reduced the likelihood of them entering World War I. Whether a South that's loosely tied to Europe would have felt compelled to enter is hard to say;

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> “Lincoln’s fortunes are tied to the war, the difference between a great president and a terrible one hinged on the fate of the armies”



Presiding over a war that ended poorly, Lincoln would have gone down not as one of the best presidents in history, but one of the worst

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they wouldn't have been nearly as much help unless they dramatically expanded their industrial base, and that was a big part of why the US involvement in World War I was so valuable – it was the combined economic power of the whole US and its industrial capacity. So that would have played out on the world stage very differently by the early 20th century.

How would the North losing have affected Britain?
It was pretty apparent that the leadership of the British government wanted to mediate for peace, although I don't think that was entirely altruistic. I mean, they came very close to recognising the Confederacy at it was in September 1862, and it was only really the Battle of Antietam that stopped them from doing that. They were interested in re-establishing trade negotiations; they wanted cotton to begin flowing again by that point because the Confederate embargo on cotton had begun to really pinch in Britain. I think they also imagined that a weakened North was a better proposition for them in the long run. The Union victory is credited with helping pass the various reform acts in Britain during the 1860s as well as the liberalisation of voting rules. Without that global victory for democracy as they saw it, those things might have never happened, or would have happened much later.

What were the turning points of the war?
The twin victories of Gettysburg and Vicksburg were essential to forestalling the Northern peace movement, which had gained strength in early 1863. The Democrats had regained seats in the Congress in the fall of 1862 and Lincoln was facing a very unhappy electorate in 1863, so those victories were essential. Another turning point was the fall of 1864, when Lincoln anticipated he wouldn't be re-elected and that [General George Brinton] McClellan, who had returned as the Democratic presidential candidate, would be elected in his stead on a platform of negotiating an end to the war, and probably abandoning the emancipation as a Northern war



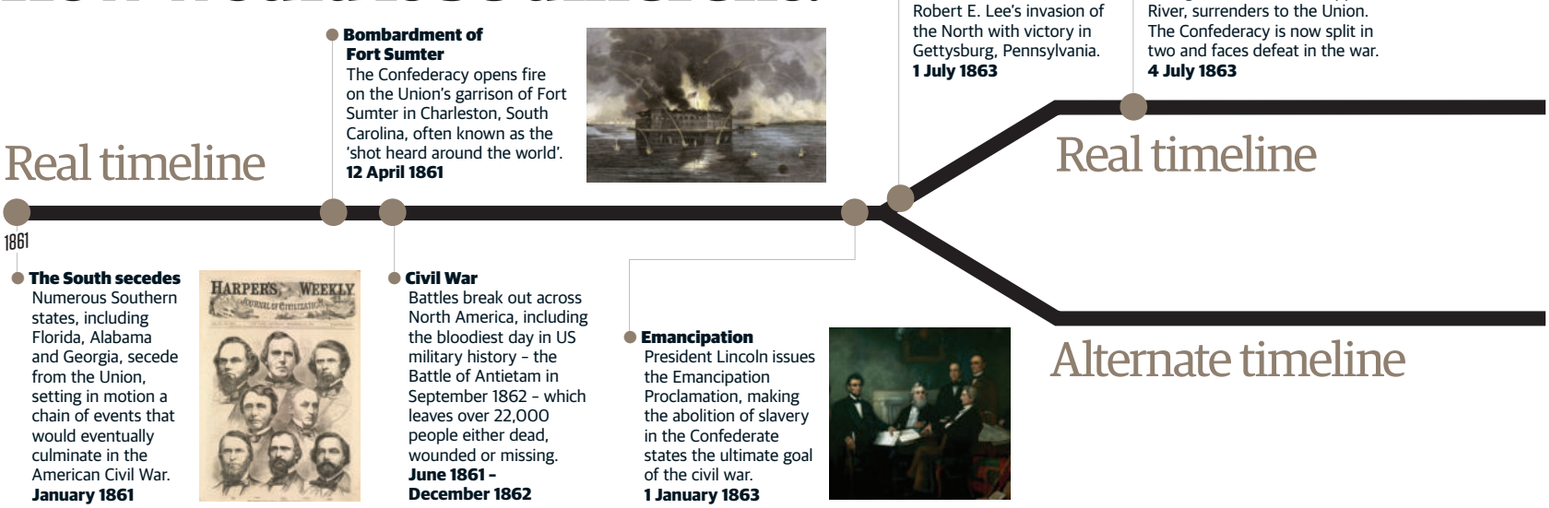
Border patrols between the Northern and Confederate states might not be too dissimilar to those between the USA and Mexico today

policy. Lincoln believed that he was going to lose until as late as the end of August 1864, and it was only the victories of General Sherman at the Battle of Atlanta [July 1864] and Admiral Farragut at the Battle of Mobile Bay [August 1964] that saved the Union. It also saved the Republican party's electoral votes, so Lincoln was soundly re-elected and the war ended with him at the helm. Certainly if he'd not been re-elected that would have produced a very different outcome.

How would it have gone without Lincoln in charge?
McClellan was not a sympathetic character in the pantheon of civil war generals, but he was in a parked position because radicals in the Democratic party had nominated him on a platform that called to start negotiating for peace. Even though he did his best to disavow that aspect of his platform, there would have been a lot of pressure within the party as soon as he was inaugurated in March 1865 to negotiate for peace. Without Lincoln's military victories, the war still wouldn't have been over: [General Ulysses S.] Grant would have still been fighting against [General Robert E.] Lee outside Petersburg, and it may well have been that McClellan came into office and immediately suspended fighting, and started negotiating for peace. It would have been hard for him to do that, though, given the sacrifices soldiers had made. The little support he had was among soldiers who felt

"The Union victory is credited with helping pass the various reform acts in Britain during the 1860s"

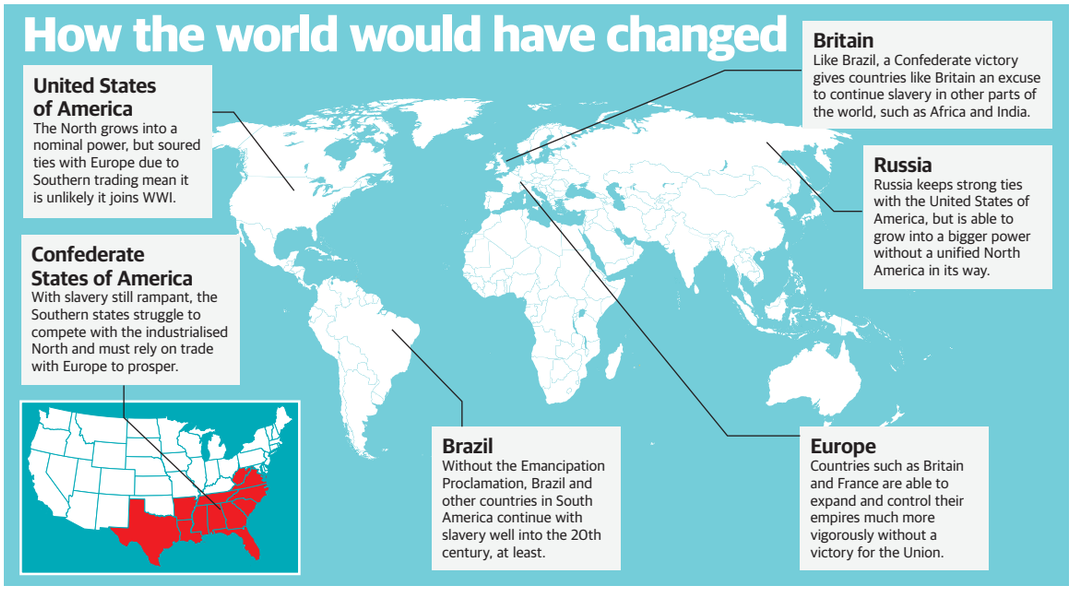
How would it be different?



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he was their true commander, but had he negotiated for peace then it might have said to them that their sacrifices had been in vain. It's very likely that he would have stopped emancipation, and even if slavery had ended he would have presided over a much faster reconstruction, which probably wouldn't have involved the enfranchisement of black men.

So does this mean Lincoln would not have been assassinated?
Given how much venom John Wilkes Booth had for Lincoln, he would have been happier to see him disgraced and essentially abandoned by the Northern electorate – there's no point killing him any more. So Lincoln then goes down not as one of the best presidents, but as one of the worst, having presided over a civil war that ends poorly, if at all. Lincoln's fortunes are infinitely tied to the fate of the war, and the difference between being a great president and a terrible one really hinged on the fate of the armies.



Without a unified United States, would other nations like Russia have grown more in the 20th century?
Russia is an interesting example because they had emancipated their serfs in 1861, and so there was some degree of friendship [between Russia and the North]. Certainly Russia was a vigorous supporter of the North; they never even contemplated supporting the Confederacy in this fight. Lincoln saw a friendly rivalry between the Russian and American empires, and he talked famously about how the Russian empire in the East and the American empire in the West would be forces for good and spread over the globe. But it would have been a substantially weakened North America and so it's likely that you would have seen other empires, both the British and French but also the Russian, growing stronger without that kind of counter-balancing force of the US.

What would it be like in the modern day?
It depends on the future of slavery in the South. Enslaved people had been pushing against the system of slavery from the very beginning in North America, when the Spanish empire was there, but it depends on the degree of success. A successful Confederacy would've no doubt ramped up slave patrols and the federal protection of slaves. The question is whether that encourages the British Empire to pursue [slave] labour in India and in other parts of its empire more vigorously, as it has essentially received a sanction of success. That portends to a very different globe, as opposed to one that gradually liberalises its treatment of workers and improves working conditions, which certainly happened over the second half of the 19th century in the West and then much later in the East. Instead, the trajectory would have gone in the other direction. I suspect it would have been much worse if the Confederacy had been successful and then stood behind [slave] labour as a viable strategy for decades after that, or who knows how long.

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Offensive
A massive coordinated campaign of all the Union Armies begins, once and for all, to defeat the Confederacy, starting with Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.
4 May 1864



Lincoln re-elected
Abraham Lincoln is re-elected as president, defeating Democrat George McClellan and allowing him to continue fighting for victory, rather than peace.
8 November 1864



McClellan elected
Democrat George McClellan is elected president of the Union, defeating disgraced former president Lincoln after Confederate victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg.
8 November 1864



Lee surrenders
General Robert. E Lee surrenders the Confederate Army to General Ulysses S. Grant in Virginia. The remaining Confederate forces surrender the following month and the war finally ends.
9 April 1865



Peace
The North seeks peace with the South and eventually ends the fighting. The Union and Confederacy remain two separate nations, with slavery still prevalent in the South.
May 1865



Lincoln assassinated
President Lincoln is shot by John Wilkes Booth and dies the next morning. Thanks to Lincoln's resolve, slavery is abolished in December 1865.
14 April 1865



Relations
By 1900, the South has struck strong trading relations with Europe, while a prosperous North remains embittered to European countries like Britain but allies with Russia in the East.
1900

World War I
The entry of the powerful USA into World War I greatly helps bring the war to a swift conclusion and allows the Allies to emerge victorious on 11 November 1918.
April 1917

World War I
Without a unified USA it is unlikely either the North or South would enter The Great War, leaving the Allies without the crucial aid they needed to win the war in 1918.
April 1917

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Tour Guide
The Vatican

Destination
ROME, ITALY



Vatican City, centre of the Roman Catholic faith, is ruled by the Pope. Decisions made here have helped to shape the history of the world



Pope Pius X walking in the Vatican Gardens



06 The radio station that broke news of the holocaust

Set up in 1931 by Marconi, Vatican Radio is run by the Jesuit Order. During WWII, Pope Pius XII decided that Vatican Radio should keep the world informed about Nazi oppression. It later broke the story that Poles and Jews were being rounded up and put into ghettos, confirming media reports that were, until then, regarded as Allied propaganda.



05 THE TRANSPORT OF POPE PIUS X

On 11 April 1959, at the behest of Pope John XXIII, the remains of Pope Pius X were transported to Venice via the Vatican Railway.



04 The election of the current pope

In recent history the pope's home, open only to cardinals or those on official business with the Holy See, housed the cardinals during the papal conclave of March 2013 to elect a pope to succeed Benedict XVI following his resignation.

07 The rescue of Pope Leo XIII

Said to be spread with earth from the site of the crucifixion in Jerusalem by St Helena, the Vatican Gardens also include a huge rectangular boxwood labyrinth in which Pope Leo XIII once got hopelessly lost and had to be rescued by Swiss Guards.



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08 THE POPE'S ELEPHANT

The Belvedere Courtyard, built in the late 15th Century, was where Pope Leo X showed off his prized white elephant Hanno to gathered crowds from 1514 to 1516. The elephant was a gift from King Manuel I of Portugal and was hugely popular with the papal court.

09 Death of John Paul I

The Papal Apartments, which have housed various popes since their construction in the 17th Century, were where Italian-born Pope John Paul I passed away on 28 September 1978 after one of the shortest reigns in papal history at just 33 days.

10 Painting of a masterpiece

Between 1508 and 1512 Italian painter Michelangelo adorned the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, itself built in 1481 to house papal conclaves, with a magnificent painting that includes among its many famous frescoes *The Creation of Adam* and *The Last Judgement*.

The sovereign city state

In simple terms, a sovereign city state is a very small country. Vatican City has been a sovereign state since 1929 when Fascist Italy under Mussolini recognised its independence. The smallest state in the world in terms of inhabitants and size, the population of Vatican City is about 800 people and it occupies an area of just 44 hectares (109 acres). Both the Pope and Vatican City are protected by the Swiss Guards. Numbering around 100 men, they were introduced in 1506 by Pope Julius II and are all still Swiss citizens. The city has its own Diplomatic Corps and flag, a publishing house, newspaper, shops and also prints its own stamps. Surprisingly, Vatican City has the highest crime rate in the world with 1.5 crimes per citizen, only one judge and no prison. Most crime is due to pickpockets and offenders, who are marched across the border into Italy as part of a pact between the two countries. The Vatican Bank mints its own Euros and is the only bank in the world which allows its cash machine users to select Latin to perform transactions.

01 Where John Paul II was shot

It was in this square that, in 1981, a Turkish terrorist shot John Paul II, the first assassination attempt on a pope in modern times. St Peter's 'square' is actually an enormous ellipse, flanked by curving colonnades. Laid out by the architect Bernini in the 17th century, the 4,000-year-old Egyptian obelisk which stands at its centre was first brought to the city of Rome by the Emperor Caligula.



02 Where St Peter was buried

St Peter's Basilica, perhaps the world's most imposing church. The present building was begun at the start of the 16th century and took over 100 years to complete. A truly vast structure, crowned by Michelangelo's dome which rises 136.5 metres (448 feet) off the ground, this church contains the graves of popes and kings, among them 'King' James III – James Stuart, the 'Old Pretender', whom the Catholic church recognised as the rightful ruler of Great Britain and Ireland upon his death in 1766. St Peter's is built above a pagan Roman cemetery in which the apostle Peter was buried after his crucifixion. Excavations beneath the basilica in the 1950s uncovered bones said to be his. Tourists can view these excavations and see the apostle's relics.



03 Galileo sentenced

Founded in 1542, the aim of the Holy Office is to defend Christian doctrines. In 1633 it was where Italian physicist Galileo Galilei was tried for heresy for asserting that the Sun, not the Earth, was the centre of the Solar System



Religion

Rebuilt in around 530 BCE, the Temple of Jerusalem was a holy centre for all Jews, and was the spiritual and political heart of the city. The Jewish festival of Passover regularly signalled a frenzied buying and selling of animals for sacrifice, where the very wealthiest could afford oxen, but doves and lambs were also purchased for slaughter. Some 250,000 sheep were bought for sacrifice in the Passover period of 33 CE alone.

What was it like?

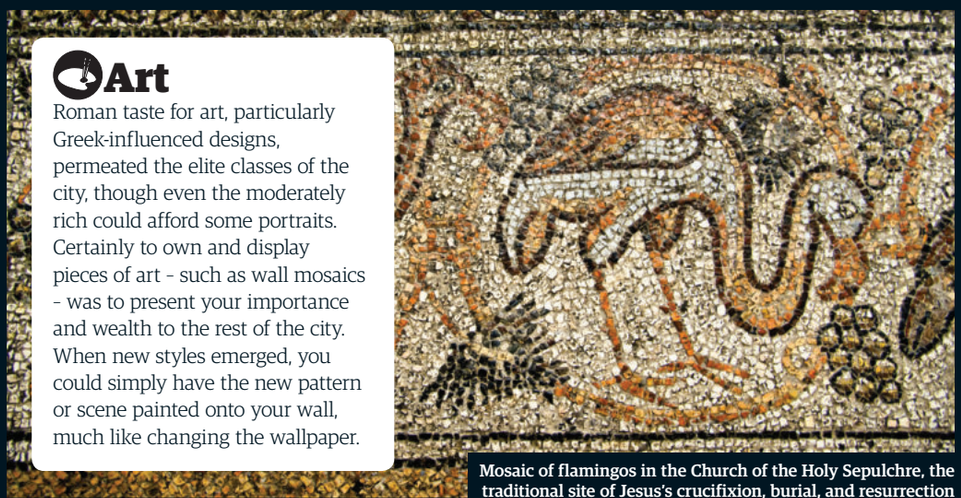
JERUSALEM 33 CE



Jerusalem was the spiritual and economic centre of the ancient Middle East. 33 CE was the year that confirmed it as the world's most important city

Art

Roman taste for art, particularly Greek-influenced designs, permeated the elite classes of the city, though even the moderately rich could afford some portraits. Certainly to own and display pieces of art – such as wall mosaics – was to present your importance and wealth to the rest of the city. When new styles emerged, you could simply have the new pattern or scene painted onto your wall, much like changing the wallpaper.



Mosaic of flamingos in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the traditional site of Jesus's crucifixion, burial, and resurrection

Nearly a hundred years after its defeat to Roman conqueror Consul Pompey, the population of Jerusalem had adapted to its occupiers. Citizens of the city would have seen trade increase dramatically under Roman rule, as goods flooded in from across the Mediterranean trade routes of the Empire.

However, the occupation was never totally welcomed nor accepted by Jerusalemites. The balance of power between Rome, the ruling dynasties (most prominently the Herods) and the mainly Jewish population was a cause of constant tension. Several Jewish revolts against the rule of Rome threatened the occupiers and in 33 CE the Roman governor Pontius Pilate put down a Galilean uprising, which saw 18 rebels killed.

This formed the backdrop for the trial of Jesus of Nazareth, who was accused of blasphemy and was produced to Pilate for sentencing. Accounts of Jesus's time in Jerusalem, leading to his crucifixion, are arguably the most important records ever to influence western culture.

Defiance against Rome continued and some 40 years on the city was almost totally destroyed by the Romans, ending a great Jewish rebellion. But this was not the end of the city, as it remains one of the world's most culturally significant locations.

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What was it like?

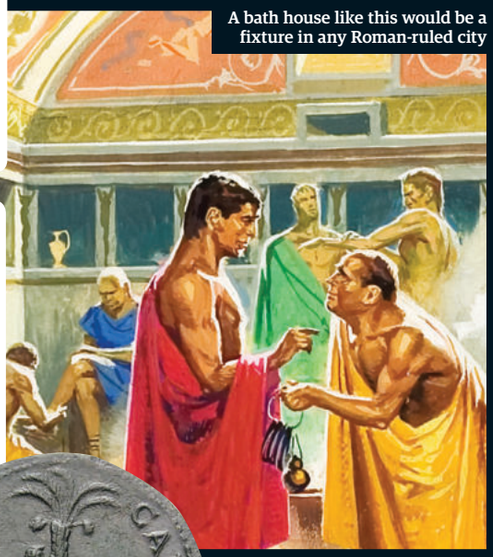
JERUSALEM 33 CE

Industry

Much of what was produced in the region was intended for local consumption and there was little opportunity for cash crops. Potash, which has medicinal purposes, was harvested from the nearby Dead Sea, while dates were also widely grown in the region. There was also a private balsam plantation east of the city, although this was privately owned by the Emperor Tiberius.

Education

While scholarship wasn't necessarily an important aspect of Roman society, the study and interpretation of holy texts was a vital element of Jewish life. If you were illiterate, like a majority of the population at the time, you would have to rely on the rabbis and scribes to recite holy texts for you. Writing was valued, but news and ideas were more often spread through word of mouth.



A bath house like this would be a fixture in any Roman-ruled city

Technology

Aqueducts were essential for any large, Roman-ruled city, in order to deliver clean water to the populace and avoid disease. If you were well-connected you could expect to regularly visit a bath house, complete with an under-floor heating system called a hypocaust. Such innovations were key to the health of the population and the comfort of the elite.

Military

As well as the Tenth Roman legion, which was stationed in and around the area, the 3,000 auxiliary troops assigned to Pontius Pilate were tasked with keeping peace in the city and the region. As a citizen, you would be used to seeing soldiers raiding the homes of suspects, as well as violent clashes in the streets.



Finance

Romans began minting a new coin in the eastern Mediterranean called the drachma, which traders could use throughout the Roman world. Jerusalemites could trade this coin with the Roman legion in residence in the area, as well as the many pilgrims that flocked to the city each year. However, if you were wealthy enough you would also be expected to pay two main taxes: Tributum soli (a tax on land) and Tributum capitis (a tax on personal property).

Government

If you were accused of breaking the law, you could be put before a court of rabbis and aristocrats for judgement. Depending on the crime's severity, you could go before High Priest Joseph Caiaphas and his council of wise men (the Sanhedrin). Though city governance was delegated to the High Priest, ultimate power lay in the hands of the region's Roman governor, as is apparent from accounts of the trial of Jesus.

The Sanhedrin were commonly a council of elders

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Heroes & Villains

Grigori Rasputin



St Petersburg, 1906, was the place and time at which an enigmatic and holy man charmed his way into the inner circles of Russian power

Written by Dave Roos

Our image of Rasputin begins with those eyes. That piercing, hypnotic, unblinking stare that even in photographs has the power to transfix. Then there's the wild beard, the greasy, matted black hair, and the quasi-Oriental robe. In one of the very few photographs that are available of him, Grigori Rasputin is surrounded by wealthy devotees, women in pearls and high-collared Victorian gowns. What did these society matrons see in this wild-eyed mystic? Where did he come from? And what power did he hold over his faithful followers, including the last Tsarina of Russia?

The facts of Rasputin's life, as many historians and biographers have discovered, are nearly impossible to distinguish from the fiction. Even the meaning of his name is fiercely debated. Most historians agree that its a reference to his native village of Pokrovskoye, while Russian playwright and Rasputin biographer Edvard Radzinsky insists that it comes from the word rasputa, meaning 'an immoral, good-for-nothing person'.

Biographers have managed to narrow Rasputin's date of birth down to somewhere around early-1869. He was the sixth child of Efim Yakovlevich Rasputin, 20 years old, and Anna Vasilievna, 19 years old, but little Grigori was the first of their children to survive infancy. Such losses were devastating, but not uncommon for a poor peasant family living in the harsh expanse of western Siberia.

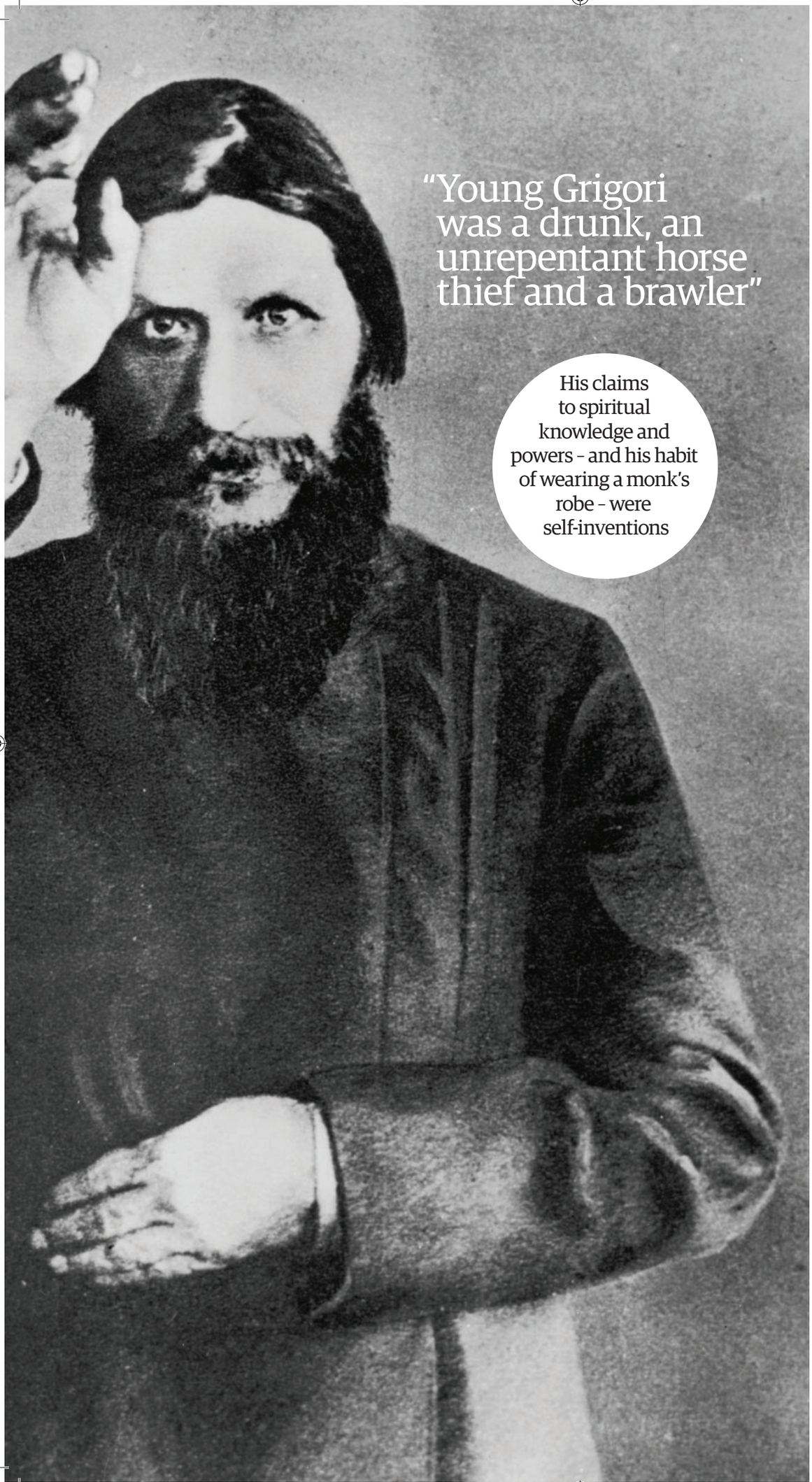
> Rasputin's daughter wrote that a brilliant comet shot across the sky the day he was born, there are no records of such a comet

From the start, Rasputin was an odd child. In his own words, he was sickly, skinny and solitary, taken to wandering the woods and fields, speaking to animals and conversing with God. He was too poor to attend school, and his ignorance, ungainly appearance and strange behaviour made him a favourite target for ridicule. 'Grishka the Fool', the villagers called him.

By all accounts – both Rasputin's and his critics' – young Grigori was a drunk, an unrepentant horse thief, and a brawler. Even his marriage at age 19 (1888) to Praskovia Fyodorovna Dubrovina and their three young children failed to calm his restless soul. Dragged before the local magistrate for yet another theft, Rasputin proposed as his punishment an epic pilgrimage. He would walk 523 kilometres (325 miles) to a famous Russian Orthodox monastery in Verkhoturye.

Rasputin was now a 'strannik' or wanderer, travelling from village to village, begging for scraps of food from strangers he met along the way and relying solely on the mercy of God for survival. For a man accustomed to abject poverty and mystical spiritual experiences, the new role suited Rasputin well. Near the monastery, he became a devotee of an illiterate visionary named Brother Makary, who preached

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"Young Grigori was a drunk, an unrepentant horse thief and a brawler"

His claims to spiritual knowledge and powers – and his habit of wearing a monk's robe – were self-inventions

Life in the time of the mad monk

Divine manifestations

19th-century Russia was no stranger to the idea of mystical wanderers like Rasputin. Rasputin modelled his mystical persona on Brother Makary, an illiterate Orthodox ascetic who preached direct communion with God and worked miracles among his followers.

Bizarre religious cults

Rasputin embodied the Khlysty contradictory belief in strict asceticism and the spiritual power of sexual frenzy. In Rasputin's Russia, both peasants and princes were susceptible to the idea that men and women could become one with the Holy Spirit through wild dancing and orgiastic abandon.

Injustice and inequality

Serfdom in Russia was outlawed in 1861, but most Russians were still poor peasants surviving on meagre farms. To raise money for his regime, the Tsar taxed the produce of these peasant farmers, leading to frequent riots in Russia.

Whispers of revolution

Karl Marx published The Communist Manifesto in 1848, and Vladimir Lenin translated the tract into Russian in the 1880s. By this time, the underground socialist movement was catching steam with anti-Tsarist intellectuals across Russia.

Military defeats

Emboldened by the colonial conquests of rival nations, Tsar Nicholas II tried to expand the Russian empire into neighbouring Manchuria. This sparked a disastrous war with Japan in 1904. The Tsar's defeat fuelled greater dissatisfaction and unrest.

Civil violence

On Sunday, 22 January 1905, peaceful demonstrators marched towards the Tsar's palace in St Petersburg to present a petition on workers' rights. The palace guards fired on the demonstrators, killing hundreds, with hundreds more trampled to death in the ensuing chaos. The seeds of the 1917 revolution were now firmly planted.



This peaceful march became Bloody Sunday

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German-born Tsarina Alexandra with Rasputin and her children

Rasputin and the Tsarina

Tsarina Alexandra and Rasputin had something in common: they were both outsiders. Rasputin was an illiterate Siberian peasant who arrived in St Petersburg among rumours of mystical healing powers and a raging libido. Alexandra was a German-born 'foreigner' – wife of the politically impotent and unpopular Tsar Nicholas II. The two outsiders first forged their alliance when Rasputin miraculously healed the life-threatening haemophilia of Alexandra's precious son – and sole heir to the throne – Alexei. Alexandra was rejected by the palace court, so Rasputin quickly became her closest confidant and advisor. Tsar Nicholas II left in an attempt to prove Russia's strength. When Nicholas left St Petersburg to lead the Russian forces to battle in World War I, this made Alexandra, now deeply under Rasputin's influence, the de facto leader of the troubled Russian state. Critics of the Tsarist regime spread insidious rumours about Rasputin's sexual depravities and scandalous relationship with the Tsarina. Alexandra further infuriated her critics and undermined her authority by firing most of her top ministers and replacing them with loyalists hand-picked by Rasputin. Alexandra's close and questionable relationship with Rasputin was one of the many reasons that the old Romanov regime was toppled in the Russian revolution.

strict asceticism – no alcohol, sweets nor sex – and personal communion with God.

Rasputin quickly modelled himself after Makary, a new kind of 'peasant mystic' that was gaining traction in the Russian religious imagination. Only the simple peasant – many Russians believed – free of education or worldly influences, could tap the deep well of spiritual gifts bestowed upon the true believer. Such peasant mystics (called starets) fulfilled multiple roles as religious teachers, spiritual guides, prophets and miracle-workers.

After two more years of mystical wandering, including treks to Greece and the Holy Land, 'Grishka the Fool' returned to Pokrovskoye as Brother Grigori, a self-made 'holy man'. He soon gained his first followers, mostly young women, who would meet with him in secret to plumb the depths of spiritual communion. What was Rasputin doing with these young women in their secret meetings? Specifically, had he converted to Khlysty, an ecstatic cult of self-flagellating zealots who believed that the only path to purity was through committing the darkest sexual sins?

For all of his devout asceticism, Rasputin never lacked ambition. In 1902, now 33 years old, he moved to the city of Kazan, 800km (500 miles) east of Moscow and 1,500km (930 miles) from the Russian capital of St Petersburg. In Kazan, he grew more gregarious and sociable, mingling with upper-class women who poured out their troubles to him in exchange for spiritual guidance. He would take their hand and peer into their souls with his mesmerising stare. As signs of their devotion, they would give him clothing and religious jewellery, and many were rumoured to share his bed.

Boshevik revolutionaries spread the rumour that Rasputin means 'licentious' or 'debauched' in Russian

Rasputin made an influential ally in the form of Gavril, the head of a well-known monastery outside Kazan. It was Gavril who wrote the letter of recommendation that Rasputin carried to St Petersburg in 1903. As in Kazan, Rasputin gained a reputation in the capital as a visionary, a healer and a charismatic holy man. He found favour with several prominent society matrons, many of whom had a 'thing' for eastern mysticism and saw Rasputin as their Russian Orthodox maharishi. The rumours of sexual predation and orgies began to circulate anew, but his cult of personality was immune to the attacks.

Most importantly, Rasputin was embraced by Feofan, a leader of the Orthodox church in St Petersburg, and the personal confessor of Tsar Nicholas II and his wife, Tsarina Alexandra Fyodorovna. Nicholas's rule was marred by poor political decisions and widespread dissatisfaction.

"He would take their hands and peer into their souls with his mesmerising stare"



Defining moment

Pilgrimage to Verkhoturye 1897

A fellow peasant caught Rasputin trying to steal his horses and beat him savagely. Rasputin recovered from his injuries, but was even more 'strange and stupid' than usual, according to his punishers. Rasputin's daughter Maria says he wore his hair matted across his forehead to hide a large scar from the beating. When caught stealing again, he proposed his own sentence. He would embark on a 325-mile pilgrimage to the famous monastery at Verkhoturye. Rasputin thus began his life as a strannik or wanderer, begging alms from strangers, communing with God and nature, and visiting holy sites across the forbidding Russian expanse.

Timeline

1869

Rasputin frequently 'adjusted' his age, but careful searches of church records uncovered his official birth date, which is also the day of Saint Gregory of Nyssa. Rasputin was his parent's sixth child, but the first of them to survive infancy.
1869

Young Rasputin was a troubled and strange child prone to wandering the woods and talking to God. While playing with his cousin Dmitry on a riverbank, the boys fell in and Dmitry died of pneumonia. Rasputin entered a spiralling depression, further withdrawing from society.
1877



By 19 years old, Rasputin had a reputation as a drunkard, a fighter and a dreamy solitary soul. Incredibly, he was still about to find a wife. Praskovia Fyodorovna Dubrovina bore Rasputin three children, but never won his fidelity.
1888

After a transformative religious conversion at Verkhoturye, Rasputin returned to his village in the garb of a mystical holy man. His first followers were mostly young women, raising the first accusations of sexual deviance.
1897

While wandering through a field in his home village, Rasputin claims he had a vision of the Virgin Mary pointing at the horizon. He took it as a sign to continue his holy wanderings, so he set off on a two-year journey to Mount Athos, Greece, and the Holy Land in Jerusalem.
1898

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Rasputin in the company of high-society and his father (third from right)

After the February Revolution of 1917 Rasputin's corpse was exhumed from his grave and burned with gasoline by a mob

After Russia suffered a humiliating defeat in the Russo-Japanese war, there were calls for political reform. During a peaceful march on the Royal Palace in 1905, guards panicked and gunned down hundreds of demonstrators. The Bloody Sunday massacre sparked the failed Revolution of 1905.

In the background of this political and social tumult, Alexandra gave birth to four beautiful girls, and finally an heir, Alexei. But Alexei was struck with haemophilia, a life-threatening blood condition. When doctors failed, Nicholas and Alexandra sought out a mystical healer. In 1906, Feofan introduced them to Rasputin.

Rasputin healed young Alexei with a prayer – or hypnosis, as many believe – and was immediately embraced by the Romanov family as their spiritual guide. Aware of Rasputin's appearance and the rumours of sexual deviance, the Tsarina tried to keep her meetings with Rasputin secret. But word spread of the mad monk who was consulting the unpopular Tsar and his 'German' wife.

Revolutionaries and critics of the royal family latched onto the presence of this occult figure as further proof of the Tsar's disastrous decision-making. Rasputin's alleged sexual escapades became increasingly more salacious, and his political influence more dangerous.

When Alexandra dismissed and replaced many of her top ministers, her political rivals accused them of being handpicked by Rasputin.

In 1916, the furore over Rasputin had reached a tipping point. His deep political influence with the Romanovs angered rival noblemen including Prince Feliks Yusupov. The prince rallied a band of men, determined to rid the autocracy of Rasputin's poisonous influence. According to Yusupov's own published accounts, the prince and his co-conspirators invited Rasputin to dinner under the pretence of meeting their wives. The men proceeded to feed Rasputin cakes and wine laced with lethal doses of cyanide, but the mad monk didn't suffer so much as indigestion. Yusupov then shot Rasputin in the back with a revolver. When that failed to kill him, Yusupov and his gang shot him again, beat him and ultimately wrapped him in a carpet and threw him in an icy river. The autopsy cited drowning as the cause of death.

Alexandra's relationship with Rasputin was key to the collapse of the Russian autocracy. Following Rasputin's death, the Russian Revolution brought the Romanov dynasty to an end.

How much of Rasputin's story is biography and how much is propaganda concocted by the Bolshevik revolutionaries who toppled the Tsar? The facts of Rasputin's life may be lost to history, but the character he personified – the shadowy mystic pulling the strings of power – is timeless.



Defining moment

Rasputin heals Alexei 1906

A 'miracle-worker' named Monsieur Phillipe had hypnotised Alexandra into believing she was pregnant with a healthy male heir to stand in place of her sickly boy Alexei. Phillipe was forced out, but the Tsarina still hungered for guidance. Rasputin arrived at the Tsar's palace with a relic from the Verkhoturye monastery. He made a remarkably strong impression on Her Majesty, so much so that they let the stranger see Alexei in his crib. As Rasputin prayed over the sick child, Alexei immediately fell calm and went to sleep, awaking the next morning with no signs of illness.

Defining moment

Even after death Rasputin's influence brings an end to the imperial regime 1918

According to legend, Rasputin once prophesied to Nicholas that if assassins ever murdered the holy man, it would mean the end of the Romanov family. It didn't take a mystical seer to foretell the collapse of the Russian autocracy, but Rasputin's vision came to pass. After abdicating the throne in 1917, the Tsar and his family were exiled to the Ural mountains for their protection. On 17 July 1918, the entire Romanov family, including the four daughters and 14-year-old Alexei, where gunned down by their revolutionary guards.



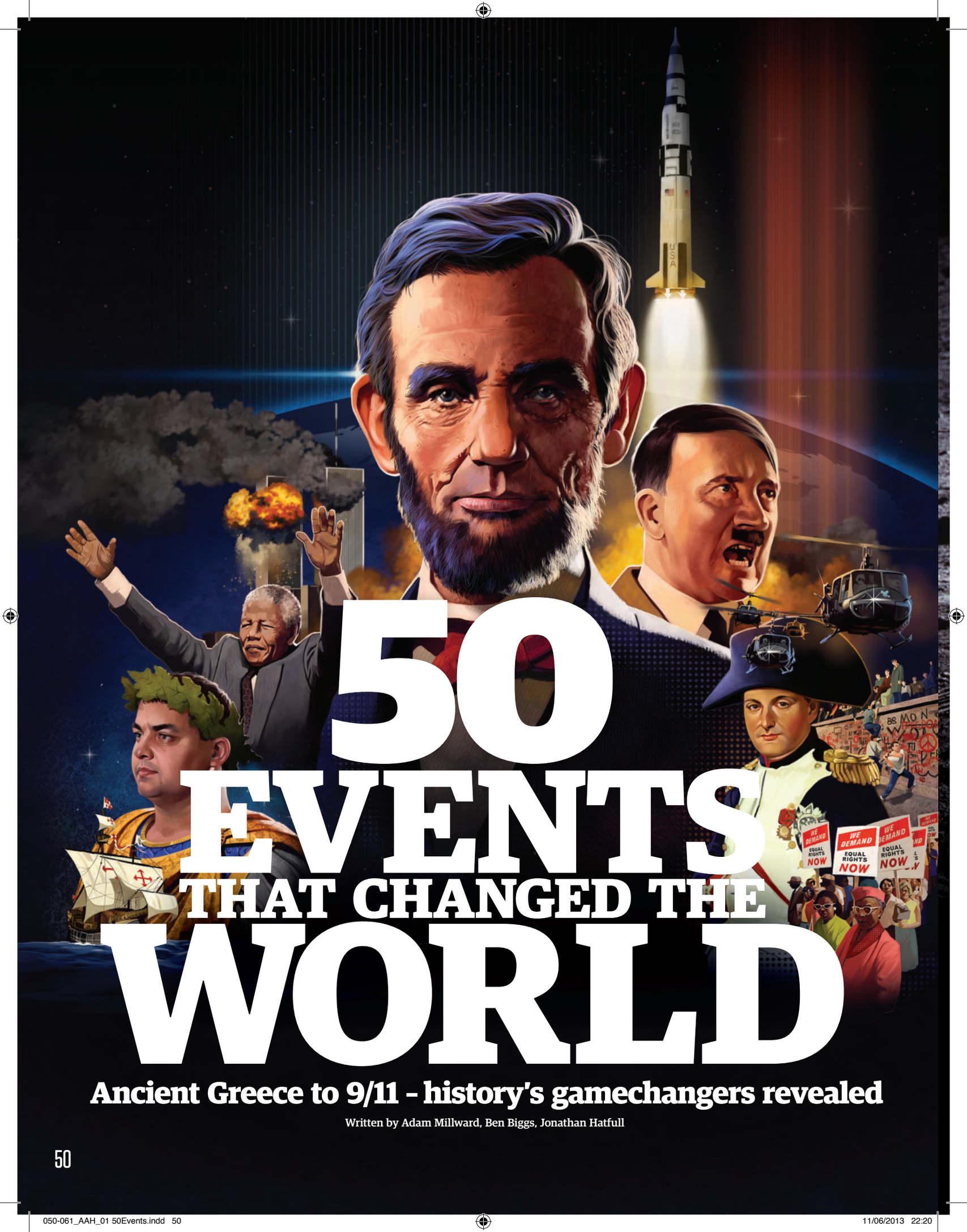


- **1901** Rasputin first gained fame (and infamy) in the city of Kazan, where the mystical peasant would hold court with troubled women, mesmerising them with his piercing eyes and odd speech. His reputation as a healer – and womaniser – spread as far as St Petersburg.
- **1903** With a glowing letter of introduction from church leaders in Kazan, Rasputin headed straight to the Alexander Nevsky Abbey in St Petersburg, where the wild-haired peasant won the admiration of Bishop Sergius, an influential spiritual leader with the capital's aristocracy.
- **1907 to 1910** After that first healing of Alexei, Rasputin was a frequent, if secretive, visitor to the palace. Alexei's health improved at the sight of Rasputin, and the Tsarina credited the monk's prayers and fasting to the improving state of her husband's regime after the 1905 uprising and the Russo-Japanese war.
- **1915** Rasputin receives a revelation that Russia will win WWI only if Nicholas himself leads the army to battle. With Nicholas away at the front, Rasputin's influence over the Tsarina increased dramatically.
- **1916** As the Russian economy suffered during the war, rival politicians accused the German-born Tsarina of being a spy and her mad monk advisor as a sex-crazed con man who was steering the nation into ruin.

1916

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50 EVENTS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Ancient Greece to 9/11 – history's gamechangers revealed

Written by Adam Millward, Ben Biggs, Jonathan Hatfull

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20 JULY 1969

ONE GIANT LEAP FOR MANKIND

The first Moon landing

There was no way the United States was going to lose the Space Race. Although Soviet Russia seemed one step ahead at every turn, with Sputnik-1, Yuri Gagarin and Luna-2 – the first artificial satellite, the first man in space, and the first rocket to reach the Moon respectively – JFK told the American people on 25 May 1961 that the nation should "commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon, and returning him safely to the Earth."

Using Saturn rockets and veterans of Projects Mercury and Gemini, the process of developing a safe rocket that could make the journey and a safe return began. However, in 1967 the test launch of Apollo 1 ended catastrophically on the launch pad when an electrical fire in the cabin caused the death of all three from asphyxiation before help could get to them. But each successive Apollo mission flight brought them closer to their goal of the Moon, testing everything from navigation systems, docking procedures and lunar suits.

Finally, on 16 July 1969 – within John F Kennedy's anticipated time frame – the Apollo 11 mission launched on board a Saturn V rocket, containing astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins. It entered lunar orbit on 19 July, as Collins remained in the craft and Armstrong and Aldrin descended in the Lunar module Eagle. After fears that they had overshot their landing target, they set down on the Sea of Tranquillity. Aldrin took communion while Armstrong prepared to activate the shuttle's camera and step outside.

He descended the nine rungs to the Moon's surface and broadcast to a captivated world the words that would echo throughout history. "That's one small step for [a] man... one giant leap for mankind." Indeed, while it would be the American flag that was planted on the Moon, and President Nixon who would make a phone call to the astronauts, it was a demonstration of how far the entire human race had come.

Origins

- Russia and America obtain German technology **1945**
- Chuck Yeager breaks sound barrier **14 October 1947**
- The Space Race begins **1957**

Legacy

- Endless conspiracy theories
- Co-operative international space exploration
- Missions to explore Mars

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A project initiated by Pericles in 447 BCE the Parthenon is often seen as an enduring symbol of Athenian democracy

508 BCE

DAWN OF DEMOCRACY

The first democratic, people-led government in Ancient Greece...

The Athenians certainly couldn't imagine life without democracy. Athens was one of the most prosperous of some 1,500 city-states (poleis) in 6th-century-BCE Greece, initially governed by an elite ruling minority. Internal unrest and costly conflict with its neighbours, however, gradually brought the city to its knees. Taking inspiration from rival Sparta, with its unusual egalitarian ethos, democracy was seen as an experiment that could unify society.

Shaped by Solon, Cleisthenes and Pericles – among others – and evolving over two centuries, every Athenian citizen was expected to get involved, though a randomly drawn, rotating council took care of day-to-day government. Forward thinking as it was, democracy was a totally different beast then – with women, foreigners and many others not represented. Nevertheless it laid the foundations for what is now a cornerstone of the modern world.

Origins

- Solon's reforms mean all Athenian citizens must participate in the Ecclesia (Assembly) **594 BCE**
- Cleisthenes introduces a policy of equal rights **508 BCE**

Legacy

- The French Revolution sees the ruling monarchy overthrown **1787-1799**
- Lincoln's 'government of the people, by the people, for the people' speech **1863**

11 SEPTEMBER 2001

THE DAY AMERICA WAS ATTACKED

The terrorist attacks of 9/11

"The sights were mind-boggling. I thought for a second a movie was being made."

Firefighter Mickey Kross was inside the World Trade Center's North Tower when it collapsed, yet even for those of us witnessing that indelible news footage on the other side of the world, his words resonate.

Just 46 minutes after American Airlines Flight 11 took off in Boston, five terrorists had taken over and flown the plane into the iconic building that would later tumble down around Kross. It was one of four hijackings that day, all of which hit their targets, except for one: United Flight 93's passengers reclaimed the plane and ensured it crashed out of harm's way in a Pennsylvanian field.

Everyone has an opinion about what caused 9/11, but more clear-cut are the effects. In the immediate sense, it resulted in the deaths of 2,996 people – the most ever in a single foreign attack on American soil. In the longer term, it forced the hand of American foreign policy. The War on Terror had begun.

Origins

- Soviet Union invades Afghanistan **December 1979**
- Al-Qaeda (The Base) emerges, calling on Muslims to join the 'holy war' **1988**
- First World Trade Center bomb kills six people **26 February 1993**

Legacy

- Launch of the War on Terror
- War in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Osama bin Laden is killed by US Navy SEALs **2 May 2011**

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Gavrilo Princip is captured after killing Franz Ferdinand, which led to the start of the Eastern European conflict

MURDER AT SARAJEVO

28 JUNE 1914

Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife fell to the gunshots fired by 19 year-old Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip, as they drove through the city. Princip was one of a group of six Bosnian Serb assassins. Austria's retaliation was backed by Germany, and Europe exploded into conflict.

THE FIRST VACCINE

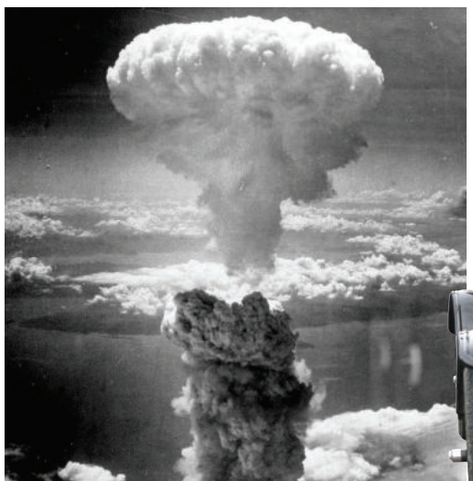
14 MAY 1796

The first vaccine for smallpox came courtesy of a microbiologist. Testing the rumour that milkmaids were immune from it because they had already contracted the similar illness cowpox, Edward Jenner took pus from Sarah Nelmes' cowpox blisters and successfully inoculated an eight year-old boy.

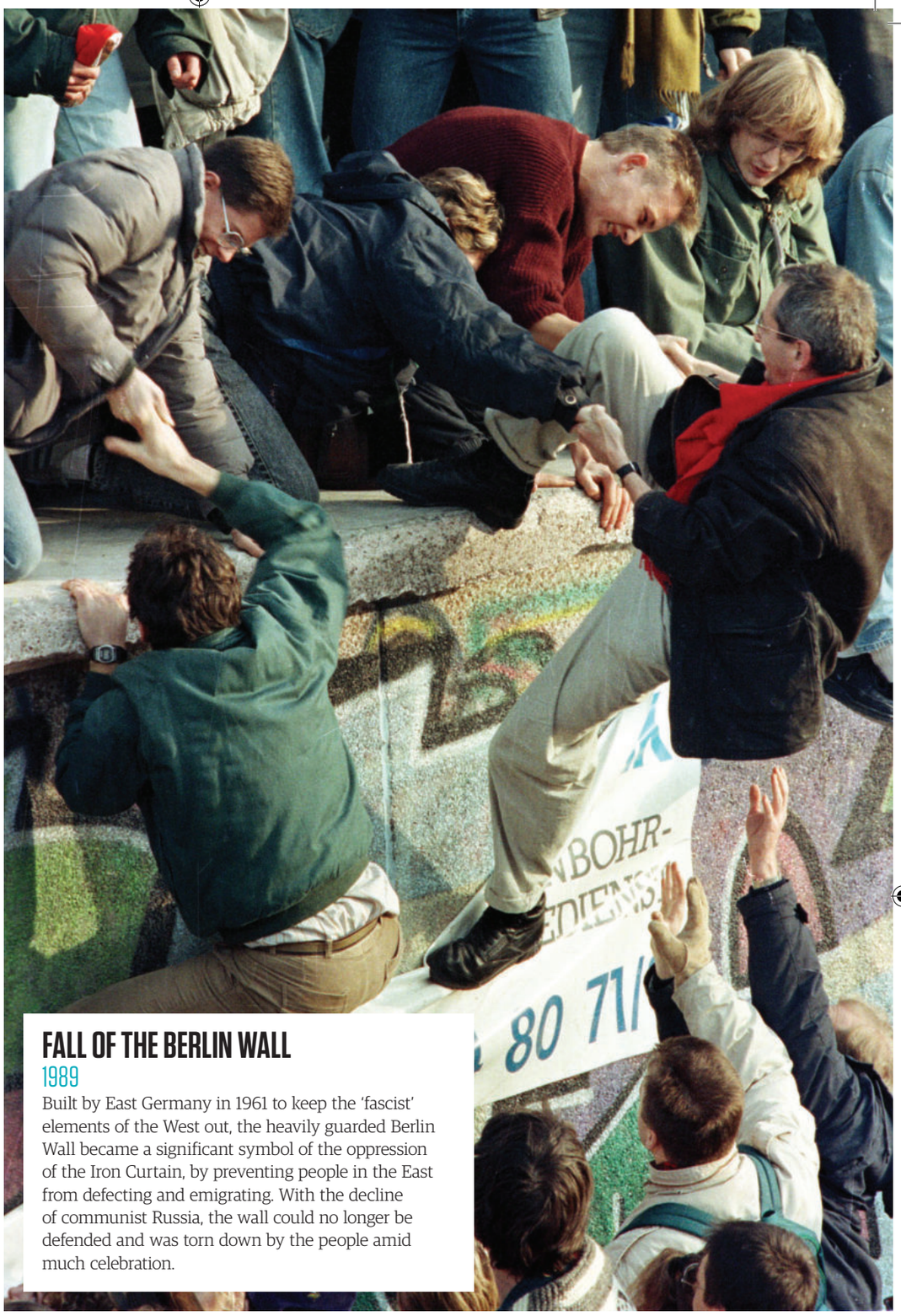
HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI: FEAR AND DREAD UNLEASHED

6 AUGUST 1945

When the US dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, up to 80,000, of the population of 350,000, were killed immediately. The effects would be felt for decades as illness caused by the radiation brought the death toll to 140,000. The second attack on Nagasaki three days later ended the war at a terrible cost.



Little Boy and Fat Man caused damage that's felt today



FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

1989

Built by East Germany in 1961 to keep the 'fascist' elements of the West out, the heavily guarded Berlin Wall became a significant symbol of the oppression of the Iron Curtain, by preventing people in the East from defecting and emigrating. With the decline of communist Russia, the wall could no longer be defended and was torn down by the people amid much celebration.



The first production line 1908

The assembly line was probably the greatest gift Henry Ford gave to the manufacturing industry. This production process brought the car to the engineers, rather than the other way around. It halved the time it took to create his Model T Ford and dramatically cut costs.

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The five-day working week 1926

In May 1926, Detroit, Henry Ford instigated a second American revolution. He reduced the working week of Ford Motor Company's workers from six to five days and their working day from nine to eight hours. Productivity at Ford soared as a result of the new, two-day weekend, a practice so successful it was adopted worldwide and is standard today.

THE LAST ROMAN EMPEROR
476 CE

By the late fifth century, the Roman Empire was rapidly losing its millennia-long grip on Europe and the Western World. The Vandals (an East German tribe) had already sacked and pillaged Rome once and, seeing Rome's weakness, others were rallying against their ruler. Germanic general Odoacer finally entered the capital and forced the last emperor of Rome, Romulus Augustus, into exile.

THE FIRST DEFENCE OF DEMOCRACY
SEPTEMBER 490 BCE

The Persian Empire wanted to punish Greece for supporting the Ionians. When the outnumbered Athenians attacked first at Marathon, the Persians struck for the weak middle of their line. The strongest troops were on the Athenian flanks, which decimated the invaders. The forces of democratic Greece had not only stood up to the forces of Persia, they crushed them.



BOSTON TEA PARTY
16 DECEMBER 1773

The American colonists' patience with the British parliament was at an end. Why should they obey a body they had no hand in electing? When The Sons of Liberty in Boston threw three ship loads of tea into the harbour, the shocked British were set on a path for war.



NAPOLEON SURRENDERS
1815

After being forced to abdicate by the French parliament, Napoleon Bonaparte requested protection from the British, who allowed him on board the British ship Bellerophon, commanded by Captain Thomas Byam Martin, where he was held in custody for some three weeks before exile to the island of St Helena in the South Atlantic.

SLAVERY IS ABOLISHED
31 JANUARY 1865

Three years after the Emancipation Proclamation, and with the Civil War still raging, Abraham Lincoln took a bold step and pushed for the 13th Amendment to be approved by Congress. Even without the Southern representatives the vote barely made it through, but its success marked the start of a long fight for equality.

ROME ADOPTS CHRISTIANITY
28 OCTOBER 312 CE

Ancient Rome was a dangerous time to be a Christian, until the Emperor Constantine looked up before the Battle of Milvian Bridge and saw a flaming cross bearing the words "In this sign shalt thou conquer." Converted by his vision and his victory, Constantine's new faith began the Christianisation of the Roman Empire.

WOMEN GET THE VOTE
1918

Suffrage groups across the Western world began to make their voice heard in the mid-to-late 19th century, but by the beginning of the 20th century, women were still not counted among the number of those eligible to vote. It took over 50 years, World War I, and the tenacity of leading suffragette societies to get women the vote for the first time on both sides of the Atlantic.



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6 JUNE 1944

THE BIGGEST INVASION

D-Day and the first step towards ending the Second World War

On 6 June 1944, the Allied Troops under the direction of General Dwight D Eisenhower and Bernard Montgomery took the first step towards breaking Hitler's stranglehold on Europe with a massive assault on the French coast – the largest amphibious attack in history.

In the preceding months the Allies had mounted a decoy operation, Operation Fortitude, in an attempt to convince the Axis forces that they would attempt to cross at Pas de Calais, where the English Channel is narrowest. Meanwhile, Operation Overlord had been poised since 1 May but favourable weather conditions were vital to the plan's success. After being postponed several times, Operation Overlord finally went into effect and the Allied forces set foot on Normandy beaches at 6:30am.

The troops taking part in the amphibious assault comprised 72,215 British and Canadian soldiers, and 57,500 Americans. They were divided to attack five targets, designated Utah (US), Omaha (US), Gold (UK), Juno (Canada), and Sword (UK), over 80 kilometres (50 miles) of coastline. With its cliff-top bunkers, which had not suffered much damage from the preceding aerial bombardment, Omaha was the most heavily defended, and the attacking US forces took heavy casualties before taking the beach. However, the decoy had worked. The German military was not alerted that an invasion was occurring until 4am. The attack did not just come from the sea, however. After midnight on 6 June, American, British and Canadian paratroopers were dropped into Normandy to facilitate the attack at Utah beach, which would give the Allies access to Cherbourg harbour. Due to the adverse weather conditions, many of the paratroopers missed their targets, but vital locations like Pegasus Bridge and the town of Sainte-Mère-Église would be captured.

At 6.00pm, Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced the invasion in the House of Commons. By midnight, each of the five beaches had been taken and the liberation of Europe from Nazi Germany was well underway.

Origins

- Five years of conflict **1939-1944**
- Germany's failed invasion of Russia **1941**
- America enters the war **1941**

Legacy

- Peace in Europe
- Atomic bombs and Japanese defeat
- Formation of the United Nations



A landing craft just vacated by invasion troops points towards a fortified beach on the Normandy Coast, June 6, 1944

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START OF THE CRUSADES
1096

Launched by the Catholic church by Pope Urban II in 1095, the first crusade to retake the holy lands of Israel was originally to help the Byzantines repel the warring Turks, but soon evolved into a holy war to take back Jerusalem. The successful campaign was the first of many 'holy' crusades that transformed the Middle East.

COLUMBUS FINDS A NEW WORLD
12 OCTOBER 1492

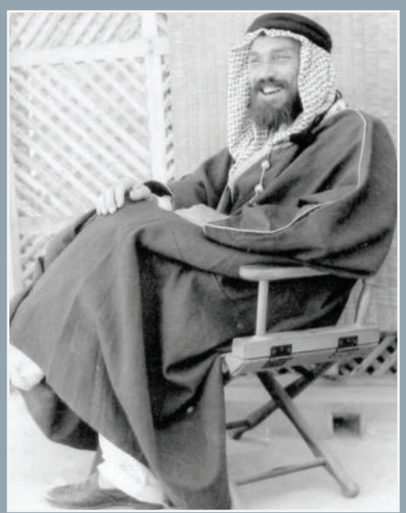
Despite attempting to find an alternate route to the lucrative Indies, Columbus's journey across the Atlantic brought him to the Bahamas and on to Cuba. Although he wasn't the first European to set foot on the Americas, word spread about his discovery of a new continent across the ocean.

THE COMPASS IS INVENTED
1117

The first magnetic compasses, thought to have appeared in China during the Qin Dynasty, were not used for exploration, but rather for geomantic divination and feng shui. The magnetic compass continued to develop in China until its first recorded use for navigation in 1117, and was used by European sailors soon after, revolutionising navigation and opening the oceans to exploration.

THE PERSIAN EMPIRE FALLS
334-330 BCE

In roughly three years, Alexander the Great brought about the fall of the 200 year-old Persian Empire. Challenging Darius III's superior numbers in 334 BCE, Alexander won successive victories until his opponent fled from the battlefield at Gaugamela in 331 BCE. Persia's surrender ended one of the most formidable empires.



OIL IN SAUDI ARABIA
1938

The hunt for oil in Saudi Arabia began in 1922 but it wasn't until 1938 that eager American Max Steineke finally discovered a reserve of black gold, just weeks after having to plead with his employers for more time. The discovery changed the world's energy practices and its relationship with the Arab world.

"Workers of the world, unite!" 1848

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels' Communist Manifesto is one of the most influential (and most quoted) political manuscripts. Its ethos of power to the working class has been the mandate of many coups since it was first published by German political refugees in London.

THE END OF THE AZTECS
1521

Having landed in the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico in 1519, the Spanish discovered a wealthy native people known as the Aztecs, expanding their control beyond Mexico. That ground to a halt with an invasion led by Hernando Cortes. The Aztec population was devastated by new diseases like smallpox and were overthrown by the better armed invaders.

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1989

INVENTING THE WORLD WIDE WEB

It's hard to imagine life without the Internet today, but it wouldn't exist if not for one man's vision

It's not as if technology that combined hypertext and the internet for globally sharing information wasn't around in 1989, but British physicist Tim Berners-Lee wanted to take it to another level. When Berners-Lee first proposed the World Wide Web for workers at CERN to co-ordinate their research, his supervisor Mike Sendall wrote: 'Vague but exciting'.

Collaborating with computer scientist Robert Cailliau the prototype software for the basic web system was demonstrated in 1990 on a NeXT computer, and it rapidly spread to other research labs and universities around the globe. With the development of versions for more ubiquitous Mac and PC environments, the World Wide Web was ready to make the leap from academia to mainstream.

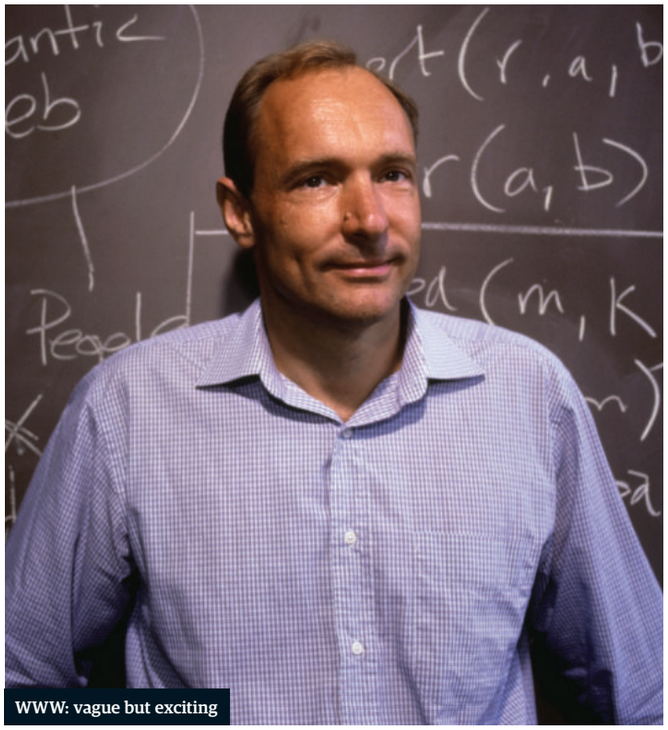
On 30 April 1993, CERN posted the source code for anyone to use, totally free of charge. Just two decades on, there are around 630 million websites and counting. You can see how far the web has come by taking a look at the first web page: http://info.cern.ch/hypertext/WWW/TheProject.html.

Origins

- Ted Nelson invents hypertext **1960**
- ARPANET goes live **29 October 1969**
- Ray Tomlinson sends the first email **9 October 1971**

Legacy

- The dawn of social networking
- Era of citizen journalism
- 'Gangnam Style' first to hit 1 billion YouTube views



WWW: vague but exciting

THE FIRST GOLD COINS ARE MINTED

546 BCE

Although gold had already been used as a currency for centuries before, and the first electrum (gold and silver alloy) coins were struck back in the seventh century BCE, the first proper gold coins were minted by King Croesus of the Lydians (modern-day Turkey). This rich nation used its pure gold currency as a statement of wealth and power.

JFK IS ASSASSINATED

22 NOVEMBER 1963

While being driven through Dealey Plaza in Dallas with his wife Jackie, John F Kennedy was shot and killed. His death sent shockwaves through the American people and fanned the flames of growing mistrust and fear of their government. There are those who still claim it wasn't Lee Harvey Oswald who pulled the trigger.

LENIN SEIZES POWER

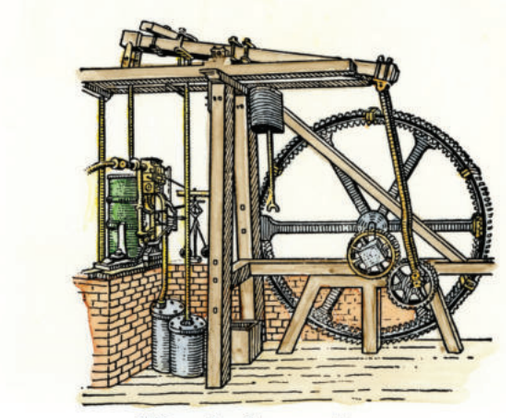
25/26 OCTOBER 1917

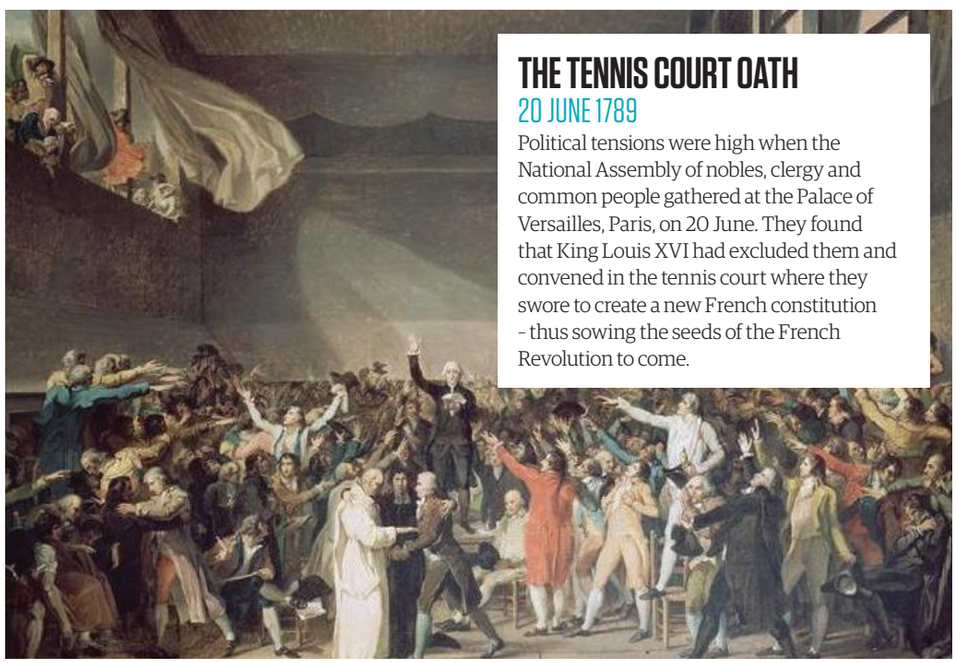
On 25 October, Bolshevik forces laid siege to the Winter Palace in Petrograd, finally gaining entrance in the early morning and placing the members of the unpopular provisional government under arrest. The Russian people rallied behind the party of Lenin and Trotsky, who promised an exit from the First World War, food and equality.

WATT PERFECTS THE STEAM ENGINE

1796

The steam engine, invented by James Watt, did so much more than drive steam trains across the country. It kick-started the Industrial Revolution so that factories could be built anywhere, not just near rivers, and steam-driven machines could do the job of dozens of workers in a fraction of the time.



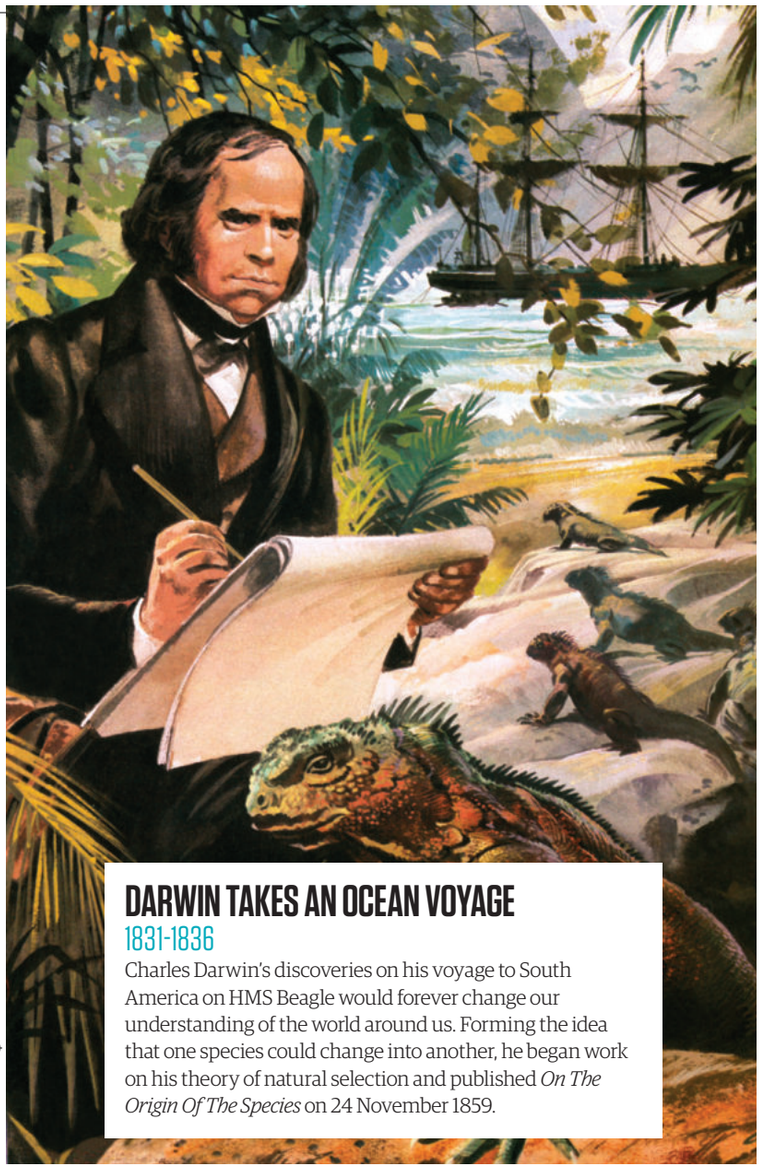


THE TENNIS COURT OATH

20 JUNE 1789

Political tensions were high when the National Assembly of nobles, clergy and common people gathered at the Palace of Versailles, Paris, on 20 June. They found that King Louis XVI had excluded them and convened in the tennis court where they swore to create a new French constitution – thus sowing the seeds of the French Revolution to come.

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DARWIN TAKES AN OCEAN VOYAGE
1831-1836

Charles Darwin's discoveries on his voyage to South America on HMS Beagle would forever change our understanding of the world around us. Forming the idea that one species could change into another, he began work on his theory of natural selection and published *On The Origin Of The Species* on 24 November 1859.

Apartheid ends in South Africa 1994

Apartheid (the state of being apart) was legislated in 1948 in South Africa, with four racial groups classified and forced into segregation. After trade embargoes in the Eighties and growing civil unrest, its gradual breakdown culminated in Nelson Mandela's victorious abolition of the internationally hated regime.

LENIN DIES
21 JANUARY 1924

Lenin was bedridden and mute following three strokes by the time of his death. While Trotsky seemed to be the natural successor, he was efficiently sidelined and subsequently expelled by Stalin, paving the way for one of history's most appalling dictators.

WRITING IS INVENTED
3200 BCE

Writing sprung out of a need to keep records in court when memory proved insufficient. It was invented in Central and South America in the seventh century BCE and Mesopotamia (modern Iraq) in 3200 BCE. True writing is distinct from early bronze age symbols and the use of digits to keep records.

THE TURING MACHINE IS INVENTED 1936

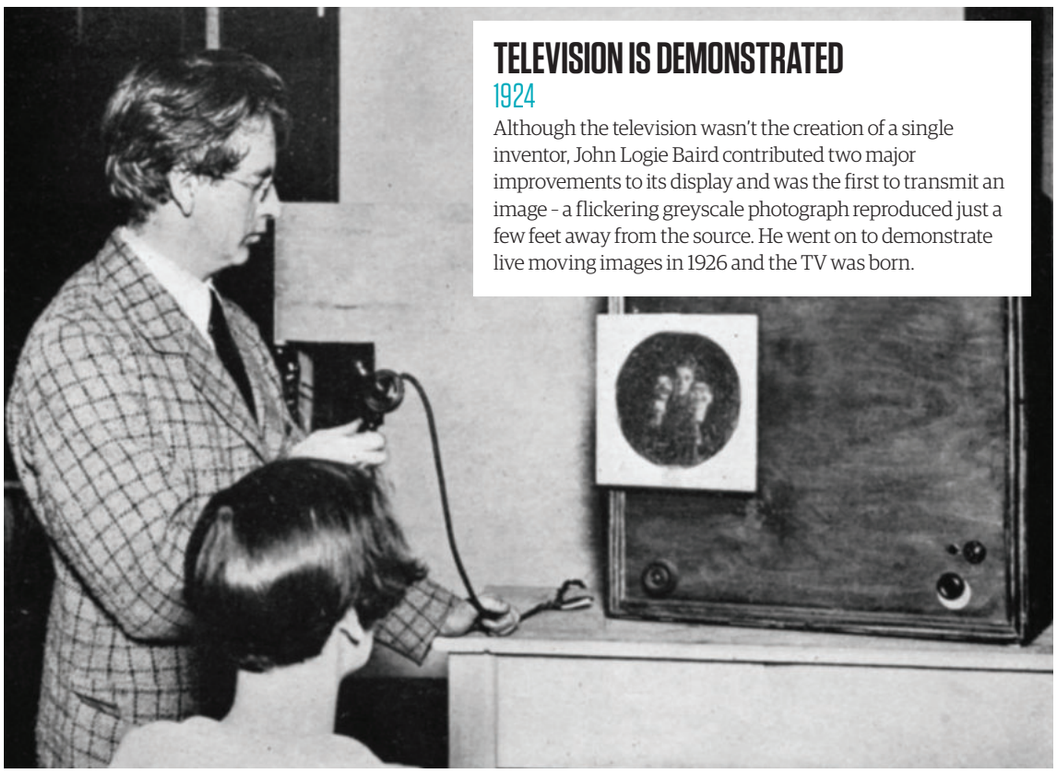
It must be a strange thing, to invent something years before anyone could even conceive of needing it. Yet this is exactly what Alan Turing did when he invented the computer. Moreover, his invention was an intangible mathematical theory for a computer, rather than a working machine, which wasn't used until Turing's tenure at Bletchley Park.



ROSA PARKS REFUSES TO STAND 1955

When Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat in the 'coloured' section of the bus for a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama, she became the rallying point for a nation that would no longer accept the injustice of racial segregation. "The only tired I was," she said, "was tired of giving in."





TELEVISION IS DEMONSTRATED
1924

Although the television wasn't the creation of a single inventor, John Logie Baird contributed two major improvements to its display and was the first to transmit an image – a flickering greyscale photograph reproduced just a few feet away from the source. He went on to demonstrate live moving images in 1926 and the TV was born.

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9000 BCE

AGRICULTURE ARRIVES

The human race takes the first step away from hunter-gatherer culture and begins to settle down

The exact site, the exact reason, and the exact date of the invention of agriculture has yet to be pinpointed. Various theories have been put forth as to why, when and how men and women began to tend to and rear their own crops and livestock, with many variations on similar themes. However, it is generally agreed that the innovation occurred shortly after 9000 BCE, and that the site of the invention of agriculture was in what is now the known as the Fertile Crescent, in the Middle East.

Climate change meant that the Levant area (in the Eastern Mediterranean) became the ideal site for settlers. As the region became temperate and annual (rather than perennial), plants like wild wheat and barley began to grow that produced large seeds rather than thick wooden stems or casings to protect them from the elements. The Natufian tribes of that region were traditionally hunter-gatherers but the ever-increasing proliferation of this vegetation made settlement an attractive proposition. However, steps would have to be taken to ensure they did not drain the area of resources.

Opinion differs as to whether the decision to try rearing crops was pre-meditated, and many believe that it was a one-off experimentation rather than a strategy designed to provide them with a regular form of sustenance. However, the combination of climate change and increasingly settled populations meant that this dabbling with crop-development was inevitable. The technology began to improve and these tribes began to rear livestock, which similarly thrived in the Levant region, and tended to renewable crops. The nomadic culture by which the human race lived would forever be altered. The first step towards human society as we know it today, with its vast towns and cities, all started with agriculture.

Origins

- **Circa 9600 BCE:** Climate change and edible plants
- **Circa 9000 BCE:** Tribes turn to sedentism
- **Circa 9000 BCE:** Increase in domesticated animals

Legacy

- Irrigation and evolving agricultural technology
- Ever-growing communities
- Intensive farming leading to climate change



4 JULY 1776

A SUPERPOWER IS BORN

The Declaration of Independence, all began with a single document

A 2011 survey showed 61 per cent of Americans favoured Queen Elizabeth II. Had the poll been taken 237 years ago the results would have been different.

In early 1776 a political pamphlet titled 'Common Sense' was circulating the colonies. Its author, Thomas Paine, didn't pull any punches when it came to his views of King George III: "How impious is the title of sacred Majesty applied to a worm, who in the midst of his splendour is crumbling to dust."

A few months on, Thomas Jefferson penned a more formal statement, calling for a split from Britain. Adopted by a majority in Congress on 4 July, and agreed by all 13 colonies, it sparked a New York riot, during which the statue of George III was toppled. The final engrossed declaration wasn't signed till 2 August, but America continues to celebrate the day it first voted for 'Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness' at the Second Continental Congress.

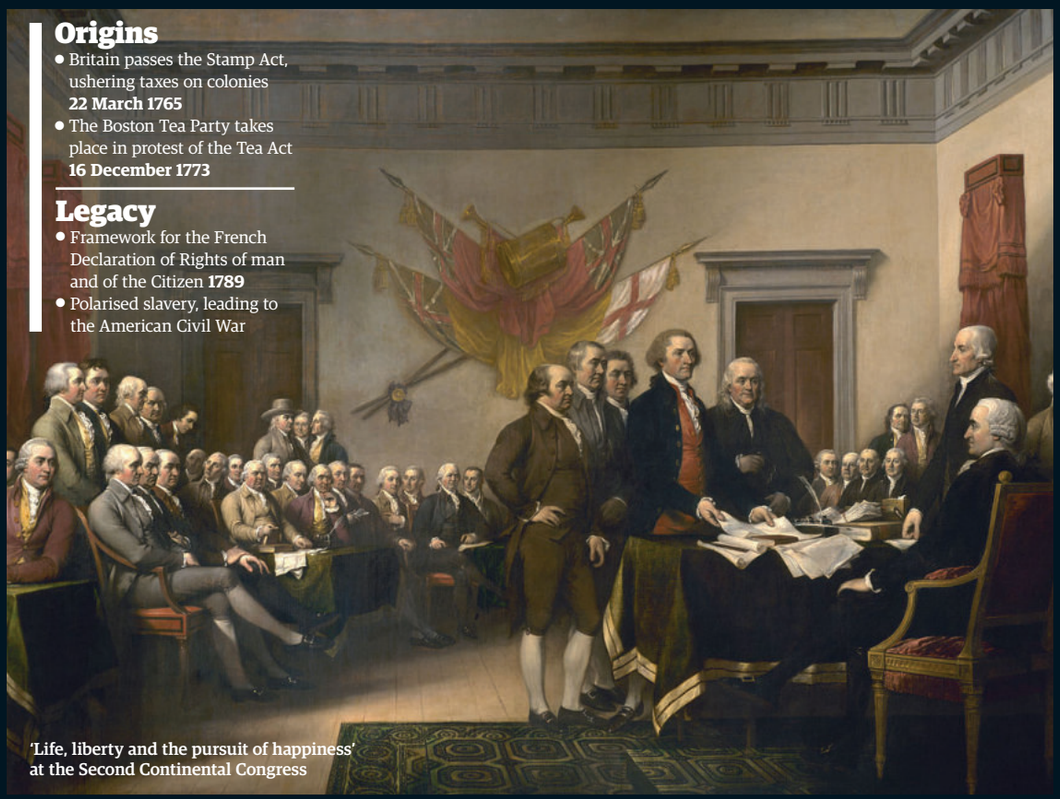
There are thought to be 26 surviving copies of the original Declaration in existence today, 21 owned by various US institutions. One was even found in the British National Archives in 2009.

Origins

- Britain passes the Stamp Act, ushering taxes on colonies **22 March 1765**
- The Boston Tea Party takes place in protest of the Tea Act **16 December 1773**

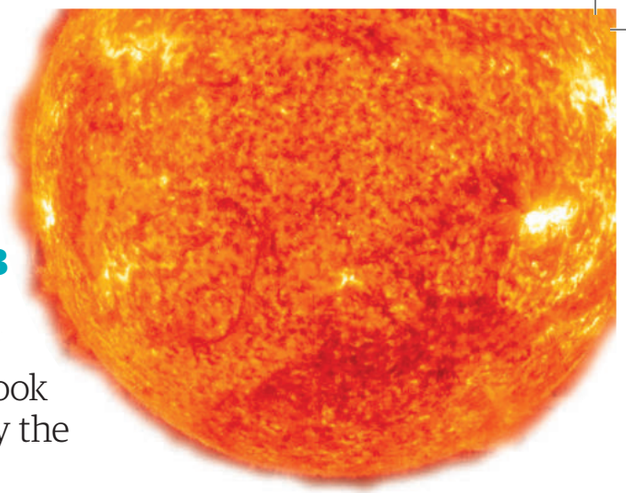
Legacy

- Framework for the French Declaration of Rights of man and of the Citizen **1789**
- Polarised slavery, leading to the American Civil War



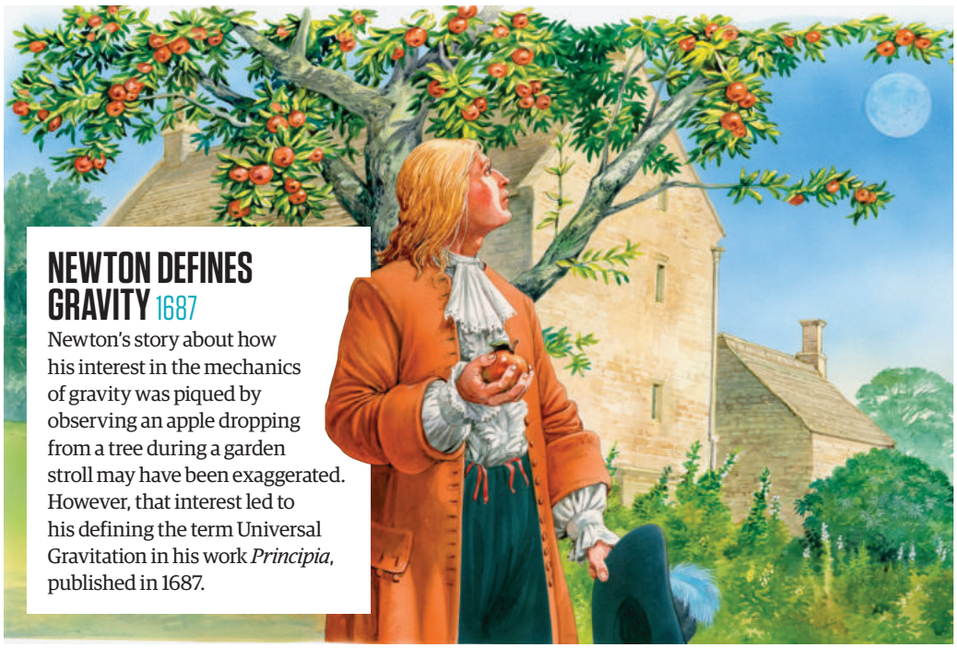
'Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness' at the Second Continental Congress

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The Sun becomes the centre of the solar system 1543

After years of fearing controversy, Copernicus decided to finally publish his theory of heliocentrism in the last year of his life. His theory that the Earth revolves around the Sun, took more than a century to be accepted, and Galileo was tried by the Inquisition for heresy in 1663 after agreeing to it.



NEWTON DEFINES GRAVITY 1687

Newton's story about how his interest in the mechanics of gravity was piqued by observing an apple dropping from a tree during a garden stroll may have been exaggerated. However, that interest led to his defining the term Universal Gravitation in his work *Principia*, published in 1687.

TELEPHONE IS INVENTED

1876

The telephone is one of the most important inventions of the modern era, which makes the story behind its invention all the more controversial. Alexander Graham Bell was officially credited as the inventor because he got his patent filed hours before a strikingly similar patent by Elisha Gray, but some believe he stole a critical line from Gray's patent to get his approved first. Either way, Bell is widely regarded as its inventor.

THE FIRST OLYMPICS

776 BCE

In honour of Zeus, father of all the gods and men, the ancient Greeks held the first Olympic Games at the sanctuary of Zeus in Olympia. Only Greek men could enter, there were far fewer events than there are today, and many participated completely naked. They were held every four years until 394 CE, when the Romans banned them for years in their campaign of Christianity.

THE PILGRIM FATHERS LAND

NOVEMBER 1620

The Puritan Pilgrim Fathers believed that Satan's grip on England was strengthening. So they set sail on the Mayflower for Virginia to create a new community. They landed near Cape Cod after being blown off course after 65 days at sea, and founded the historic Plymouth Colony on the site of a deserted Native American settlement.

THE TET OFFENSIVE LAUNCHES

30 JANUARY 1968

The tide of the war in Vietnam was irreversibly turned when the North Vietnamese forces mounted the multi-pronged, well-planned Tet offensive, beginning with five separate assaults. Although the first phase was repelled, it was a death blow to America's already-diminishing confidence in their ability to win the war.



MAO PROCLAIMS THE REPUBLIC

1 OCTOBER 1949



20 years of Chinese civil war were ended by Chairman Mao's defeat of Chiang Kai-shek. The country then established itself as a communist nation. American fears grew, strengthened by the knowledge that they had tried to intervene and failed. Diplomatic relations between the two nations would only be resumed with Richard Nixon's visit to China in 1972.

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1905

THE LAWS OF PHYSICS REWRITTEN

"Politics is for the present, but an equation is something for eternity"

Part of Albert Einstein's special theory of relativity published in 1905, $E=mc^2$ is by far his most well-known legacy. Despite its straightforward appearance, it deals with the complex and interchangeable relationship between mass and energy. The equation was born from a discrepancy between the work of earlier physicists - like Isaac Newton, Galileo and James Clerk Maxwell - and unravels why the speed of light is constant, as well as the concept of space-time. Einstein completely blew apart the once widely accepted notion of a 'clockwork universe'.

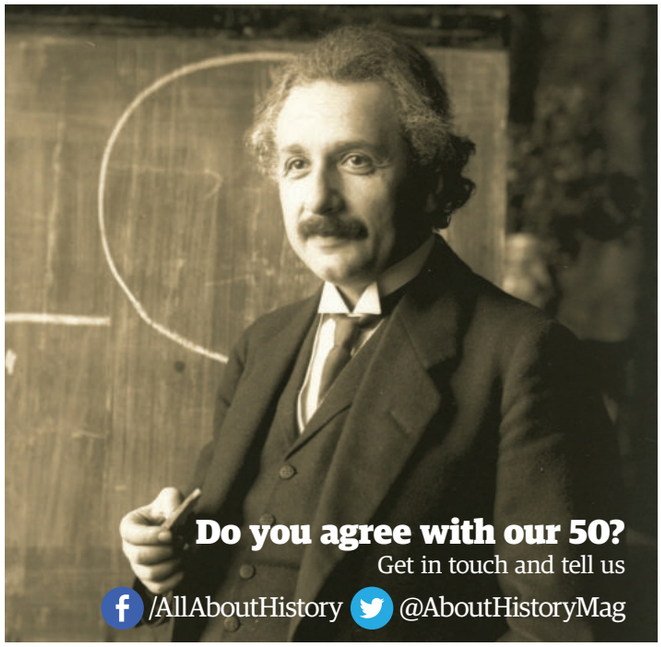
$E=mc^2$ was preceded by several other ground-breaking papers and the clerk-turned-science-superstar then went on to demystify many other physics conundrums, including general relativity in 1916. While universally lauded as one of modern history's greatest minds, he remained humble: "I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious," he said.

Origins

- Ole Roemer measures the speed of light **1676**
- Émilie du Châtelet suggests energy is proportional to mv2, not mv (as proposed by Isaac Newton) **1740**

Legacy

- Better understanding of the Big Bang
- 3D medical PET scans
- Rise of nuclear power



Do you agree with our 50?
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BENZ INVENTS THE CAR

1885

German engineer Karl Benz is credited as the creator of the first petrol-powered automobile. However, the Benz Patent Motorwagen was more of a tricycle with the vital part of his invention - his patented two-stroke petrol engine - attached to it.



CHINA'S LAST EMPEROR FALLS 1912

Emperor Pu Yi succeeded to the throne at two years old in 1908. Aged five, he was forced to abdicate by the Xinhai Revolution that turned China into a republic. Strangely, he was permitted to keep his title and many of his privileges. He fled after World War II and, when recaptured by China, became gardener at the Beijing gardens.





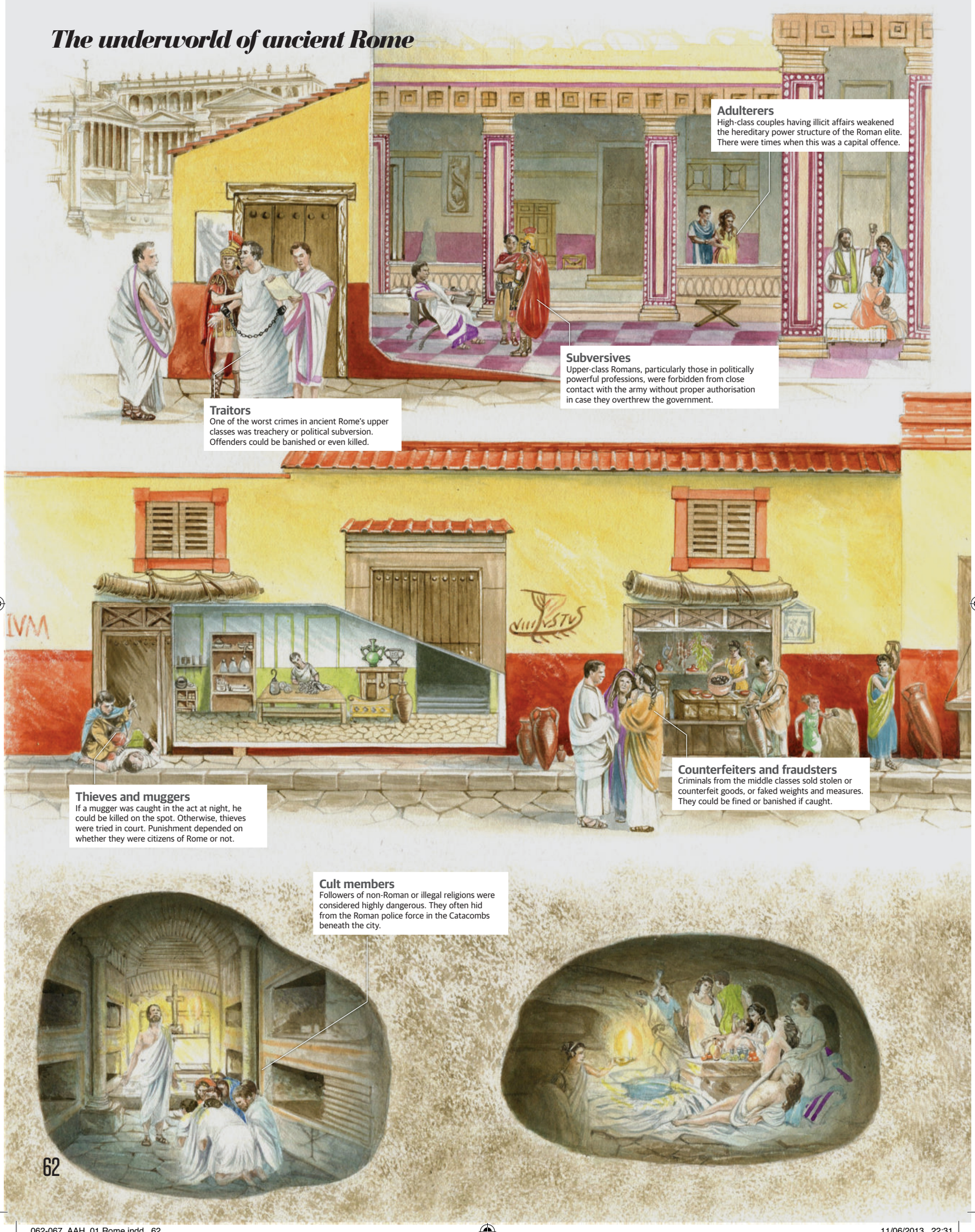
Mandela is freed 1990

Having just avoided execution, Nelson Mandela was tried by the South African government for sabotage, treason and violent conspiracy in 1964 and sentenced to life imprisonment. He served over 25 years of his sentence and was released in a dramatically different political environment, he went on to become leader of the ANC and abolished apartheid in 1994.

© Alamy; Corbis; Getty; NASA; Martin Dürrschnabel; Ian Petticrew; Zhang Zhenshi

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The underworld of ancient Rome



Traitors
One of the worst crimes in ancient Rome's upper classes was treachery or political subversion. Offenders could be banished or even killed.

Subversives
Upper-class Romans, particularly those in politically powerful professions, were forbidden from close contact with the army without proper authorisation in case they overthrew the government.

Adulterers
High-class couples having illicit affairs weakened the hereditary power structure of the Roman elite. There were times when this was a capital offence.

Thieves and muggers
If a mugger was caught in the act at night, he could be killed on the spot. Otherwise, thieves were tried in court. Punishment depended on whether they were citizens of Rome or not.

Counterfeiters and fraudsters
Criminals from the middle classes sold stolen or counterfeit goods, or faked weights and measures. They could be fined or banished if caught.

Cult members
Followers of non-Roman or illegal religions were considered highly dangerous. They often hid from the Roman police force in the Catacombs beneath the city.

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From the Senate to the streets, crime was rife in ancient Rome. From escaped slaves to treacherous aristocrats, discover the extent of Roman villainy

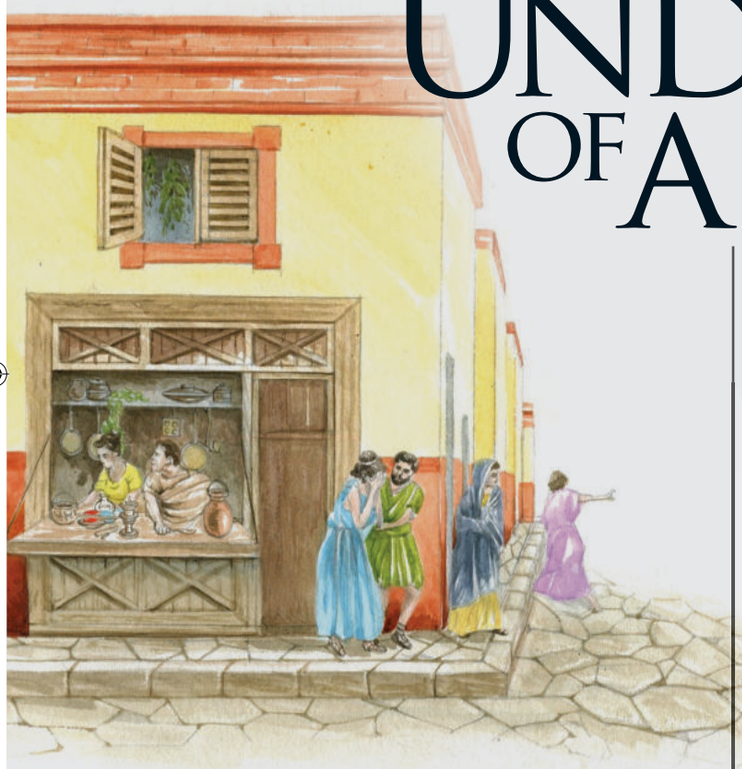
THE UNDERWORLD OF ANCIENT ROME

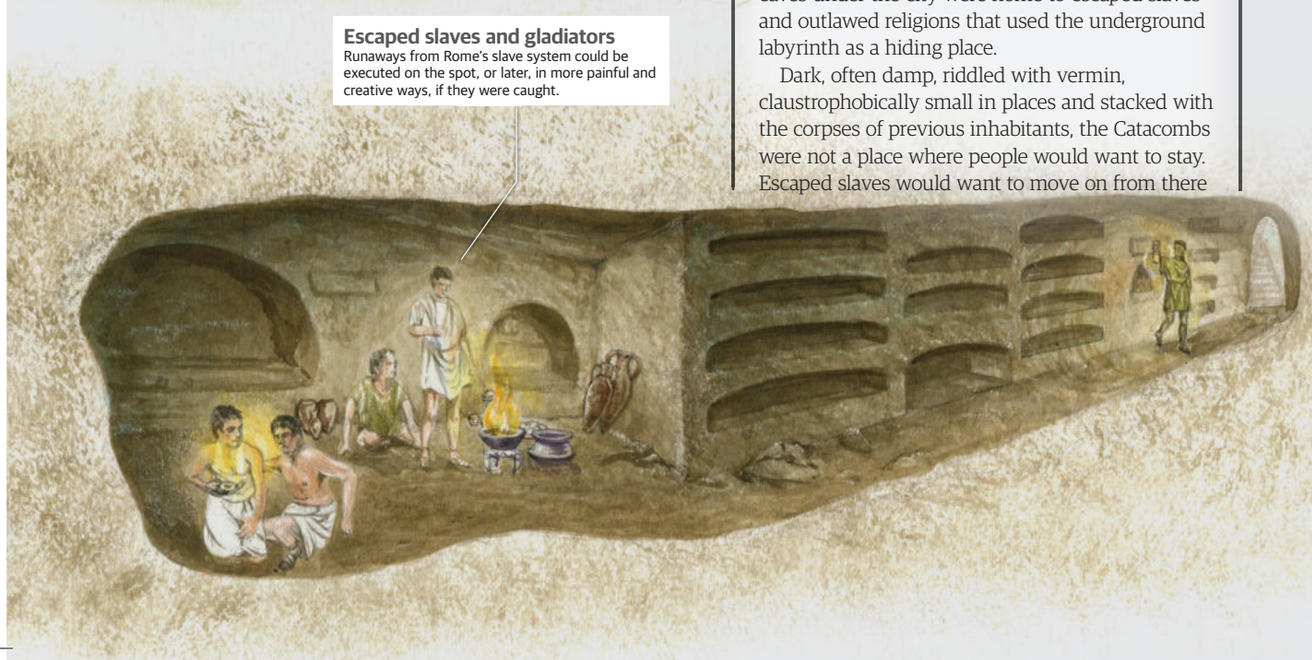
Written by April Madden

Ancient Rome had a problem with crime. Robberies were common, so was violence and rioting. Merchants cheated their customers; desperate slaves escaped regularly and joined other outlaws in their hiding places beneath the city. At the top level of society, the wealthy and aristocratic were often embroiled in secret or subversive plots. From the top to the bottom the city was riddled with criminal activity.

Beneath the streets of ancient Rome lurked some of the city's most dangerous criminals. The Catacombs that form a warren of tunnels and caves under the city were home to escaped slaves and outlawed religions that used the underground labyrinth as a hiding place.

Dark, often damp, riddled with vermin, claustrophobically small in places and stacked with the corpses of previous inhabitants, the Catacombs were not a place where people would want to stay. Escaped slaves would want to move on from there





Escaped slaves and gladiators
Runaways from Rome's slave system could be executed on the spot, or later, in more painful and creative ways, if they were caught.

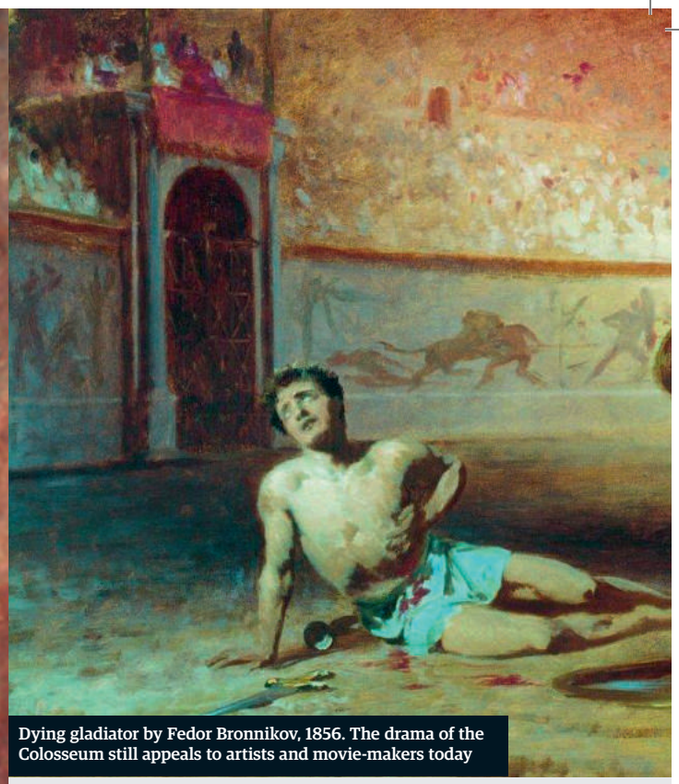
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THE WORLD UNDER ANCIENT ROME

A place of rest and sanctuary

Catacombs are a network of tunnels and passageways, dug into the soft volcanic rock beneath Rome, which were created as underground cemeteries by Hebrews and early Christians between the 2nd and 5th centuries. Commonly, a stairway would lead 10-15 metres (33-50 feet) below the surface. At this point numerous galleries would diverge, wide enough for two people carrying a bier to walk. These Catacombs would provide temporary refuge to Christians during the time of the persecutions.

"Obscure symbols helped other criminals to navigate the Catacombs, showing them which path to follow in the dark, stinking labyrinth"



Dying gladiator by Fedor Bronnikov, 1856. The drama of the Colosseum still appeals to artists and movie-makers today

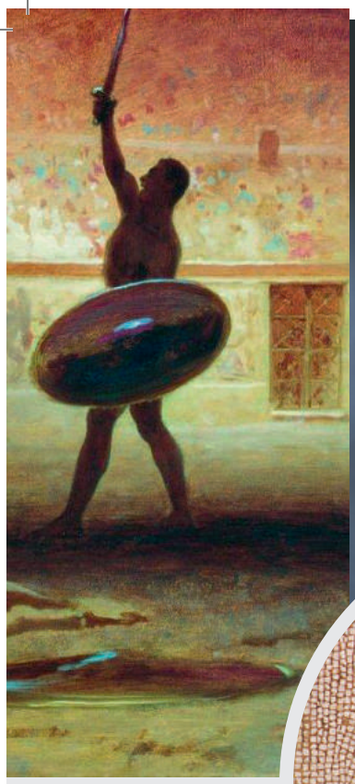
as soon as they could, and not just because of the grim conditions. In 71 BCE Rome crucified an escaped gladiator called Spartacus who was widely believed to be the ringleader of a group of escapees. He and his group had caused the Third Servile War, which raged for two years and resulted in Rome passing even harsher sentences against escaped slaves. Not wanting to be caught, slaves used the Catacombs only as a temporary hiding place on their way out of the city.

It was the religious cults that tended to stay in the underworld of the Catacombs. Romans were usually quite open-minded about gods who weren't their own, but some religions – Judaism, Christianity and Bacchanalia – followed dangerous ideologies. Bacchanalia was a Greek religion that the Romans had adopted. Its followers celebrated their god Bacchus with drunken orgies, and it was rumoured that they would murder those who refused to participate. In 186 BCE a law was passed against Bacchanalia.

Jews and Christians, meanwhile, were criminalised in ancient Rome because they believed that there was only one god. During the Roman Republic, with its pantheon of gods, this was frowned upon, but by the time Rome became an Empire it was an active threat to national security. Rome's last dictator, Julius Caesar, was deified when he died, his heir Augustus inherited the title 'Divi Filius' or 'son of a god'. Judaism and Christianity threatened this idea of divine emperor, and their followers fled underground.

There's remains evidence in the Catacombs of the life that these people lived. Often they would carve or paint their religious symbols onto the walls. Jews often painted images of themselves performing their rites, or of the menorah – the seven-branched candlestick that is often used to represent their faith. Christians were different. Knowing that they were the most-hated religious criminals and that Rome's riot police would sometimes pursue them even as far as the Catacombs, the Christians used a range of cryptic

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Rome's first emperor, Augustus, enacted many laws against the criminal underworld of ancient Rome. This 1st century statue is in the Vatican Museum



A Roman criminal is punished by being thrown to the lions in the gladiatorial arena. This mosaic is from Roman Tunisia and dates from the 3rd century

signs such as stylised fish, Chi Ro symbols and 'sator squares' – coded word games that secretly spelled out a prayer – rather than the obvious cross/crucifix. These obscure symbols helped other criminals navigate the Catacombs, showing them which path to follow in the dark, vile labyrinth. The only reason they stayed so near to the city was that they believed they should spread their faith and that they would be rewarded for their sufferings in the afterlife.

Crime wasn't limited to the literal underworld though. Roman street crime would be familiar to anyone who watches today's news. Popular articles about graffiti, theft, disorder and violent crime were as common in ancient Rome as news reports about antisocial behaviour in deprived inner-city areas today. Roman sources like the poet Juvenal describe everything from nuisance noise, rowdy crowds and littering to mugging and burglary.

Walking down an ordinary street in Rome meant walking among a gamut of muggers and thieves. The public roads were noisy and crowded, making pick-pocketing easy – a thief could grab or cut a purse from their victim's belt and be off into the crowd before they had even been noticed. Several servants or guards, in the hope of deterring would-be muggers, would often accompany higher-class Romans into the lower-class areas. This caused its own problems for ordinary city dwellers, who would frequently complain about being barged out of the way and knocked over. The streets were littered with rotting produce and human sewage, which ordinary householders would dispose of from their upstairs windows. Being knocked sprawling into the street was also an open invitation for thieves to attack, under the guise of helping the victim to their feet.

ONE LAW FOR ONE…

Crime and punishment in Rome's class system

The free Roman citizen

A free citizen of Rome, if caught stealing or cheating, was sued in court and made to pay a fine of twice to four times the value of what he had taken. If he'd committed a particularly serious crime, such as adultery, bribery or counterfeiting money or documents, he could be banished from society for the rest of his life. He would only be sentenced to death for very serious kinds of murder or treason, and could be offered a private execution instead of a public one. His legal protector in court had to be someone else of the same rank.



A statue depicting a free Roman citizen in a toga

The non-citizen underclass

A member of the Roman underclasses – a poor, non-citizen 'plebeian' – could expect stricter penalties and punishments than a free citizen. If caught in the act of mugging someone at night, he could face execution, sometimes on the spot. However if he was arrested after the crime, or for anything apart from night-robbery or murder, he could argue his case in court. His legal protector in court could be 'anyone who cared'.



Non-citizens were given stricter punishment if found guilty

"Ancient Rome had its own versions of our cheap designer fakes, payday loan scams and food scares"

The city's poorer inhabitants – members of the 'plebeian' underclass – made up the criminals of the lower-class streets. They were typically poor and underfed – vinegar and beans was their dinner – so their motivation for criminality wasn't greed, but need. Ordinary working Romans had been complaining of poverty and dejection and contrasting their bitter lot with the better lives of the higher classes from the very beginning of the Empire. With such a level of poverty and social disaffection, it's no wonder that many of the lower classes of the city turned to crime just to survive. Even a few coins stolen from one of their peers would buy some better food, or some cheap wine to help them momentarily forget their poverty.

Drinking led to another set of problems however: drunken violence. Juvenal, discussing his own mugging in his third Satire, seems just as offended to be accosted by a drunken lout as he is about being robbed. Public drunkenness was often the root cause of the mobs and rioting that periodically plagued ancient Rome – setting fires, looting goods and produce and damaging property. For this reason the Emperor Augustus set up two police forces in the later years of his reign. The 'vigiles urbani' were the City Watch – a security service that doubled as the city's fire service – while the 'cohortes urbanae' functioned as the riot police.

Every so often the police forces would be ordered to clear the lower-class criminals out of a particular area in the city or the countryside and villages immediately around it. Low-level criminality was so ensconced in plebeian Roman society that often the only effect this had was to move the problem around from area to area, mostly in the poor districts. But the middle classes had their own criminal element – they just committed different, more considered and more lucrative crimes.

Cheating, swindling and counterfeiting went on in ancient Rome's pleasanter streets and markets on a daily basis. Ancient Rome had its own versions of our cheap designer fakes, payday loan scams and food scares. Counterfeit coins and jewellery were a problem in the city. Some merchants would bulk out their grain with gravel or top up wine with seawater. Others leant money out at illegally high rates and took their debtors for everything they owned. Depending on their social standing, these cheating merchants and moneylenders could be sentenced to a range of punishments, from a public lashing to the payment of compensation.

The merchants were better educated and more organised than the lower-class street criminals. Rather than acting on impulse, they carefully planned both their crimes and how they would deal with getting caught. It was common for middle-class Roman traders to organise themselves into groups like trade unions, known as 'collegia'. While many of these were composed of law-abiding citizens, the odd criminal collegium did exist. The collegia's collective funds and organised legal status meant that they had power and resources

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LAWYERING-UP IN ANCIENT ROME

Defence in the Roman courts

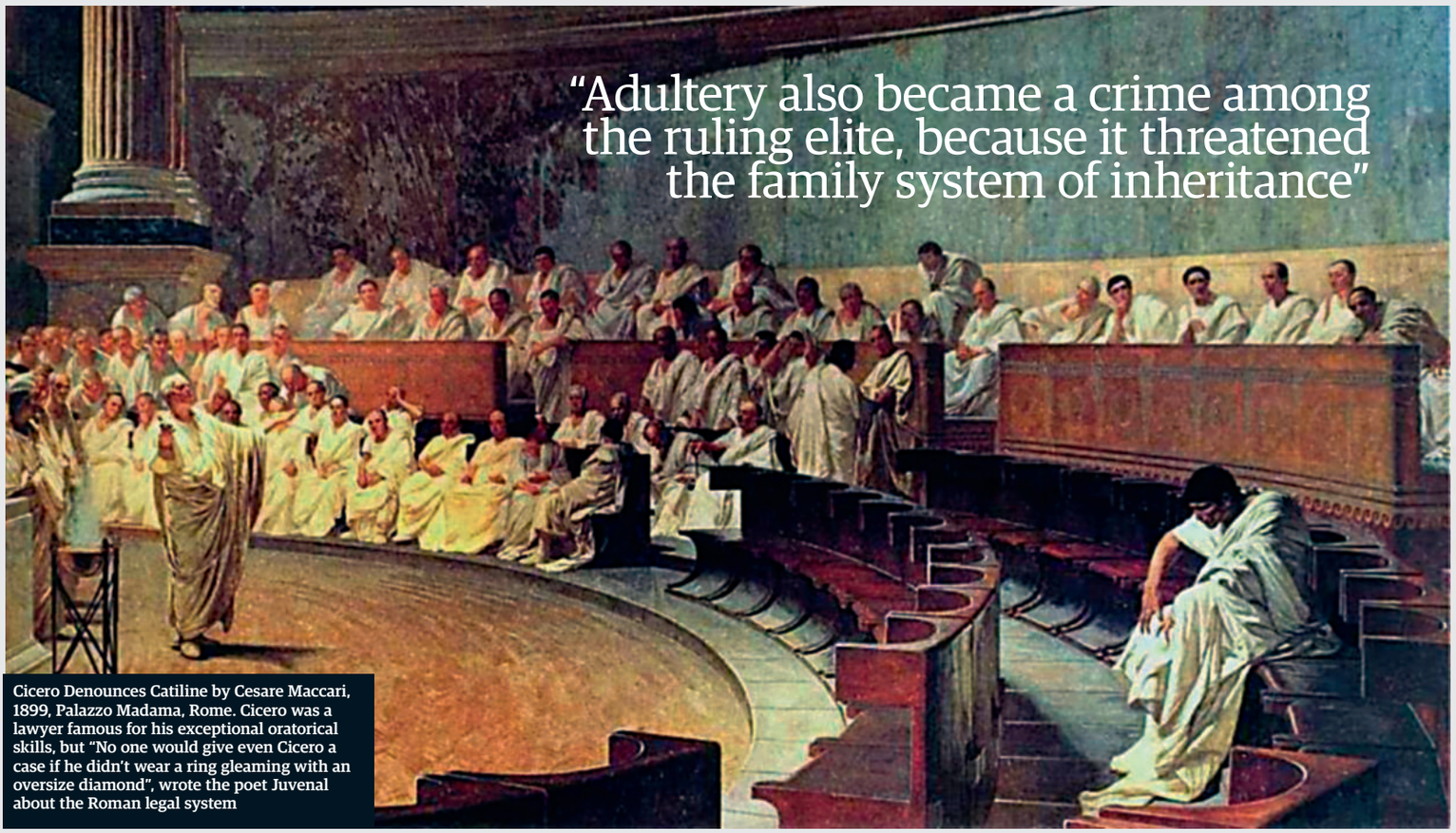
Like all career criminals, Roman offenders took their legal representation seriously. Rome is sometimes said to have had the first lawyers in the world and they were available to free citizens and to any non-citizen of the underclass who hadn't committed a capital crime. During a court case, in front of the local praetor (judge), a lawyer could represent his client and argue on his behalf. A lawyer's main function was to either prove his client not guilty or to reduce the penalty or punishment for his client's crime. However, all Roman lawyers were not created equal. Some served the wealthy patrician families and were rich and high-class themselves – "It's the stylish clothes that sell the lawyer," wrote Juvenal. Average citizens and non-citizens had no access to the high-powered lawyers of the elite, although members of a collegium could pool resources and influence to employ a more expensive lawyer for one of their members. Lawyers for poorer clients, however, sometimes ended up being paid not with money but with farm goods or food. The underclass were able to mount a trained legal defence in court – but their lawyers were generally almost as poor and hungry as the people they were defending.

that could be employed to get their members out of trouble if necessary. Criminal collegia were the nearest thing that ancient Rome had to the Mafia and they operated on much the same principle – keep together, stay quiet, and make money. Thanks to the organisation of these guilds, even if a criminal collegium member was caught, he could expect to be able to employ a decent lawyer and get away with a fine, or possibly banishment. If the worst happened and the fine he had to pay reduced him to complete bankruptcy though, he could be forced into slavery to pay off his debt.

Crime didn't stop when it reached the upper echelons of the city either – in fact, the high-class villas of the elite were a hotbed of a different type of criminal activity. Romans of the patrician class had no need to steal or swindle. They were born into the world of inherited wealth that the lower-class longed for and the middle classes aspired to. Their lives were very different from the general population, and so were their crimes. This was especially true during the transition from the Roman Republic to the Roman Empire, when treason became one of the worst offences any Roman could commit. The crimes that are most familiar to us today among the Roman upper classes are of course the plots and assassinations that characterised much of the later Empire. We often think of the Roman upper classes as a hotbed of sedition and plotting, and indeed many did commit treachery in one way or another. Treachery, however, wasn't simply limited to plotting or assassination; it was anything that threatened Rome as a whole – the idea of the 'Eternal City' was perhaps more important than the people who lived in it.

Upper-class Romans were just as much at risk of being beguiled by the treacherous new religion of Christianity as the plebeians. Among the male elite there was always the danger that some bright young general or politician might think he could do a better job of ruling the city and its attendant Empire than the current establishment. Some of the worst upper-class Roman crimes included paying bribes to the army and patricide. Patricide meant killing your father or the 'paterfamilias' of your family. While this was a shocking crime in all strata of Roman society, it was worst in the patrician class. The head of the household symbolised a kind of mini-Emperor, a symbol of rulership, inheritance and the established order. To violate that was to violate the principles of the Roman Empire. Adultery also became a crime among the ruling elite, because it threatened the family system of inheritance.

Crime was a significant problem for the population of ancient Rome from all walks of life. And while the crimes – and their punishments – all varied in severity, execution and motivation, when it came down to it they all revolved around the same needs and wants: more money, more control, more power.



"Adultery also became a crime among the ruling elite, because it threatened the family system of inheritance"

Cicero Denounces Catiline by Cesare Maccari, 1899, Palazzo Madama, Rome. Cicero was a lawyer famous for his exceptional oratorical skills, but "No one would give even Cicero a case if he didn't wear a ring gleaming with an oversize diamond", wrote the poet Juvenal about the Roman legal system

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ROMAN PUNISHMENTS

From the cruel to the unusual

CRUCIFIXION

HUNG FROM A CROSS AND LEFT TO DIE

The criminal was tied or nailed to a cross and left to die from suffocation due to his lungs collapsing. Used for slaves, pirates, Christians and other non-citizens.

CULEUS

SEWN INTO A SACK AND DROWNED

This inventive punishment for patricide saw the criminal sewn into a sack and thrown into the river or sea. In later variants a live dog and chicken were included, and some tales even mention a monkey and a snake being added in too.

BANISHMENT

FEW YEARS TO THE REST OF THEIR LIFE

Upper-class Roman criminals were generally banished, apart from in the very worst cases. Banishments could last from a few years to life and deprived the criminal of their assets and power.

A FINE

UP TO FOUR TIMES THE VALUE

For low-level and non-violent crimes, the most common punishment for a Roman citizen was a fine.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

PUBLIC BEATING

Non-citizens could expect more severe punishments for low-level crimes, such as a public beating, usually with a whip.

THE ARENA

GLADIATORS FOR ENTERTAINMENT

Slaves could be sentenced to the arena to serve as gladiators – warriors who fought to the death purely for the entertainment of the Roman public.

ENSLAVEMENT

FOR INABILITY TO PAY

Fraudsters or thieves who couldn't pay some or all of their victim's compensation could be enslaved by the victim.

DAMNATIO AD BESTIAS

SERVED TO ANIMALS AS FOOD

Some of the worst criminals were put into the public arena with a group of lions, to be killed and eaten by them.

© Sandra Doyle/The Art Agency: Look and Learn; The Ashmolean Museum

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THE Great land TO THE SOUTH

HOW THE WORLD DISCOVERED AUSTRALIA

The promise of a great southern land captivated sailors, pirates, merchants, kings and even popes. We discover how strong winds, astral bodies, religious fervour and economics led us to Australia

Written by James Hoare

On 20 August 1770, the flag of Great Britain was hoisted over the silver sands to flutter in the breeze. Three volleys were fired by the landing party, and then answered by the Bark Endeavour, moored in the bay.

James Cook and his crew had been at sea for 724 days with Plymouth a distant memory, and it had been 141 days since they had left New Zealand behind. Less than 100-strong, a tiny ship in a vast ocean, they had mapped the coastline, every island and inlet, before tacking west to Van Diemen's Land, then north in search of the eastern coast of Terra Australis Incognita – the unknown land of the south – promised in his sealed orders.

Ostensibly in the Pacific to witness the rare transit of Venus across the sun, their's was a swashbuckling secret mission in the name of discovery, with a royal warrant to claim unsettled lands for the crown, and record alien sights and skies for science. When explorer, astronomer and enlightenment hero Lieutenant James Cook stepped ashore and claimed the great southern land for Britain – naming the whole eastern chunk of this vast continent New South Wales in the process – he wasn't discovering a new world so much as he was meeting an old friend.

The dream of Australia had dominated the European exploration of Asia for 400 years, and had been a myth of Atlantean proportions for much longer. Cook wasn't the first to arrive, flag in hand, and stretched out before him was a road paved with shipwreck, war, spice and piracy, but first, there had to be the idea itself.

15,913 kilometres (9,888 miles) and well over 1,000 years away, Pythagoras set light to Cook's imagination. Around 530 BCE, the Methuselah of mathematics had decamped to Croton in modern Italy to escape the tyranny in his Greek island homeland of Samos. Travelling widely from Egypt to India before founding his school of ideas and gathering his followers, he put his experiences to work, devising the theorem that bears his name, and a slightly less well-known one about the musical values of various lengths of string.



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Western Australia
Captain: William Dampier
Ship: HMS Roebuck
Nationality: English
Date Of Discovery:
26 July 1699



Northern Australia
Captain: Willem Janszoon
Ship: Duyfken
Nationality: Dutch
Date Of Discovery:
26 February 1606

Arafura Sea

Timor Sea

Darwin

Coral Sea

an Ocean



Eastern Australia
Captain: James Cook
Ship: HM Bark Endeavour
Nationality: English
Date Of Discovery:
20 August 1770

New Holland

Australia

Brisbane



Western Australia
Captain: Dirk Hartog
Ship: Eendracht
Nationality: Dutch
Date Of Discovery:
25 October 1616

New South Wales

Adelaide

Sydney

Canberra

Key

- William Janszoon (1606)
- Dirk Hartog (1616)
- Abel Tasman (1642)
- William Dampier (1699)
- James Cook (1770)



Tasmania
Captain: Abel Tasman
Ships: Heemskerck and Zeehaen
Nationality: Dutch
Date Of Discovery:
24 November 1642

Tasman Sea

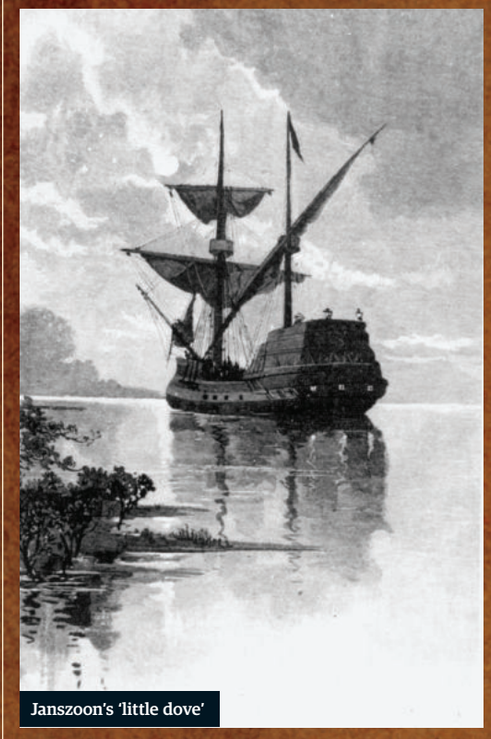
Great Southern Ocean

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"The dream of Australia dominated European exploration of Asia for 400 years, and had been a myth of Atlantean proportions much longer"

Pythagoras was also credited with the notion that our world was a sphere, and so there had to be a vast landmass to the south to balance this orb. Two centuries later, Aristotle advanced this theory based on the circular shadow of the Earth during a lunar eclipse and the changing places of constellations the further south you sailed. In the wake of Aristotle's studies of the night sky, the Roman geographer Pomponius Mela (1st century) produced maps dividing the world into northern and southern zones, and later the Greco-Roman astrologer, astronomer, geographer and all-round busy thinker Claudius Ptolemy (90–168 CE) compiled all the knowledge that he could of the world's regions into his immense *Geographia*, adding that the route to the great southern land was no doubt impassible due to "monstrosities."

The idea of this new expanse – Terra Australis – took root in the foundation of Renaissance geography and cartography, until every map came with a vaguely defined great southern land. Just as Cook's 1768 mission – a fact-finding expedition for the Royal Society of London – came with its sealed orders to increase the reach of the British Empire, it was politics and economics that set his spiritual predecessors off on their voyages of discovery.



Janszoon's 'little dove'

In 1368, the mighty Mongol Empire, that stretched from Eastern Europe to the Sea of Japan, collapsed, ruling out the overland journey to the riches of China and India. The surprisingly cordial relationship between the Khan and the Pope was replaced by tensions between Christian Europe and the rising Islamic Ottoman Empire, which closed the overland routes to the east. Their hand forced by demand for spices, silk, tea and porcelain, the mercantile nations – the Portuguese and Spanish at first, and then the Dutch, French and English – began to look for sea routes into the Indian Ocean and beyond.

While the European superpowers began to look upon their maps and globes anew, the powerful Tamil merchant dynasties of Sri Lanka established their own maritime trade empire that stretched its fingers across South East Asia between the 9th and 14th centuries. Their holds stuffed with the luxuries of India, and the traditional Tamil proverb "cross the oceans and acquire gold" on their lips, they made their presence felt through art and architecture in Thailand, Java, Malaysia, Vietnam and Cambodia. By the 18th century – though their once great empire had declined, replaced by colonial Portuguese, and then Dutch and British – Tamils were trading with the European settlers in New Zealand and Australia. Yet there's evidence to suggest that they'd been there before: a 14th century ship's bell, beautifully inscribed in Tamil, found in 1836 being used as a Māori cooking pot.

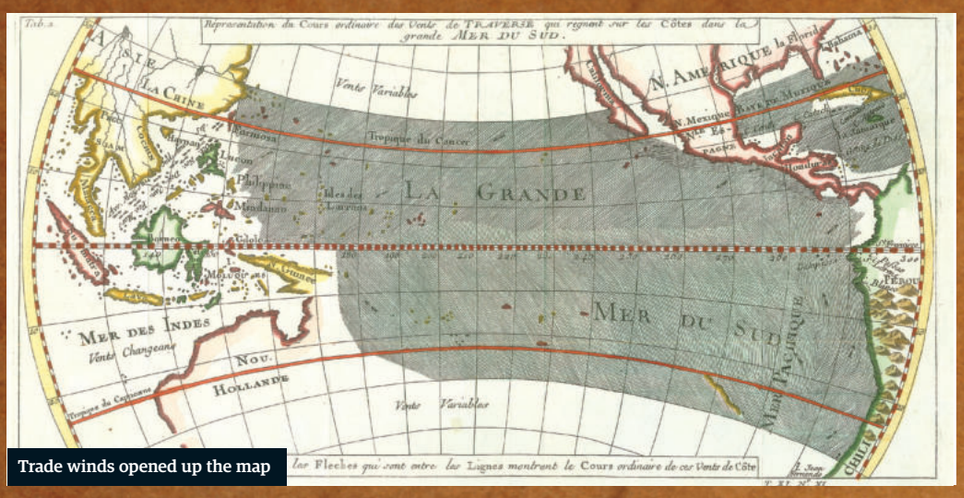
Now locked in a mercantile Cold War, following a belligerent race for territory and trade across the gradually opening globe, the Portuguese and Spanish reached a frosty impasse with 1494's Treaty of Tordesillas, dividing North and South America between them, and then 1529's Treaty of Zaragoza which divided Asia.

The Portuguese crown had rolled across East Africa, India and into Malaysia, with the city of Malacca and the nutmeg and clove-rich Spice Islands of the Banda Sea at the centre of their interests. They even set up a trading post on the island of Timor in 1590, only 720 kilometres (448 miles) from what is now Darwin in the Northern Territories. Claiming much of Asia as their own and setting the rival Spanish up for a future toehold in the spice-free Philippines, and precious little else, the Zaragoza line neatly bisected New Guinea, and though they may not have known it, also that fabled Terra Australis Incognita.

With the support of Pope Clement VIII and King Phillip III, Pedro Fernandez de Queirós set off from Peru in 1603 with three ships to find and claim Terra Australis for Spain. Leaving navigation "to the Will of God" and landing on Vanuatu, just west of Fiji – mistaking it for his prize – he dubbed it La Austrialia del Espíritu Santo, the Southern Land of the Holy Spirit, before attempting to found a colony called Nova Jerusalem (and a holy order, the Knights of the Holy Ghost, to protect it). Nova Jerusalem collapsed ignominiously through the hostility of the Ni-Vanuatu and his own crew.

Ironically, it was actually de Queirós's second-in-command, Luís Vaz de Torres, who came the closest to realising his dream. Separated from de Queirós, de Torres led the two remaining ships to Manila. When winds forced him south of New Guinea instead of north, he and his crew became the first recorded seamen to navigate the strait that now bears his name, dividing New Guinea in the north from Australia in the south. Though he may not have locked eyes on the northern shore of the great southern land, he came amazingly close.

While de Queirós's divine mission scattered, his masters fared little better. In 1578, the status quo was rocked when King Sebastian I of Portugal died without heir, prompting a Spanish invasion



Trade winds opened up the map

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Only Cook's courage and cool leadership averted complete disaster on his voyage up Australia's east coast

in 1580 that saw King Phillip III's father unite both thrones. Spain gained Portugal's colonial possessions, and those increasingly vulnerable and far-flung Portuguese colonies gained Spain's multitude of enemies. Over the next two decades, England, France and the newly independent Dutch Republic snapped at the Iberian Union's heels in North America, South America, India, Africa and South East Asia – tearing off chunks of land, piece by bloody piece.

In 1605, the Duyfken ('little dove'), its eight cannons blackened by Spice Islands skirmishes with the Portuguese, sailed from Java, newly fallen under Dutch influence, to explore the coast of New Guinea on behalf of the Dutch East India Company (VOC). Captained by Willem Janszoon, he became the first recorded European to set foot on Australia in 1606, thinking it was the continuing western coastline of New Guinea (missing the Torres Strait altogether – and it would take Cook, over a century later, to conclusively prove that Australia was a separate landmass). Finding it swampy and inhospitable, the crew of the gently named Duyfken proved themselves anything but, as amicable early encounters with the Aboriginal Australians turned sour when the Dutch abducted some of their women, prompting a cycle of attack and reprisal that forced them back to sea.

Janszoon was followed in 1616 by Dirk Hartog on the Eendracht's maiden voyage. Becoming separated from a VOC fleet crossing the Cape of Good Hope, he took advantage of the 'Roaring Forties' – powerful westerly winds that could cut a journey shorter by months – and whether by accident or design, he shot across the Indian Ocean far more southerly than was usually safe.

Australia's discovery of the world

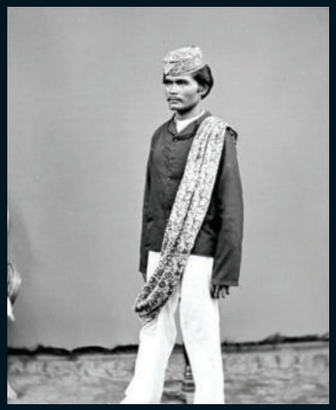
While European explorers tacked ever closer, Australia's nearer neighbours had already reached out for the great southern land, and it had reached back.

Between the 16th and 18th centuries (possibly as early as the 12th), Makassan trepangers – sailors from Sulawesi (now part of Indonesia) who harvested sea cucumbers for a Chinese market – traded fishing rights with indigenous Australians for cloth, tobacco, metal axes, knives, rice and gin, and the Aboriginals traded turtle shells, pearls and cypress pine in return. Some Aboriginals willingly joined Makassan crews to collect trepang.

The Makassan legacy ranged from smallpox to new words. With somewhere between 350 and 750 languages or dialects spoken by the same number of Aboriginal tribes, Makassar became the coastal lingua franca. Many words closely related to Javanese and Indonesian are still in use by Aboriginals today. The Makassans may have left the trappings of their faith, too, with some historians arguing that elements of Islam (adopted by Sulawesi in the 15th century) made their way into Aboriginal ceremonies.

Contact with the Makassans span the Yolgnu's whole world on its axis, as they became focused on the sea, crafting resilient dugout canoes in Makassan style that allowed them as far out as the Torres Strait Islands and New Guinea. The Torres Strait Islanders themselves crafted outriggers and ocean-going dugouts up to 20 metres long for trade with both the mainland and New Guinea – a practice that continues even now, protected by the Torres Strait Treaty from all customs and border controls.

In this, at least, the way of life shared uninterrupted by the Australian Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders for over 40,000 years has gone unchanged.



The Makassar people were early traders with indigenous Australians

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Aboriginal seafarers used dugout canoes

"The dream of Australia had dominated the European exploration of Asia for 400 years, and been a myth for longer"

The Eendracht reached Western Australia and left a flattened pewter dinner plate as its testimony. Thanks largely to VOC's enthusiasm for speed over lives – the company insisted its captains take advantage of the Roaring Forties, regardless of the danger – the Dutch caught sight of Australia many times over the next few decades, gradually shading in more and more of their maps, with many more of them left smashed against the rocks. The oldest of these wrecks was the Tryall, sunk in 1622 en route to Java from Plymouth and captained by John Brooke. The Tryall represented an achievement by which Cook could scarcely be inspired – the first Englishman to clap eyes on the great southern land was also the first European to sink within her treacherous currents.

While recklessness had catapulted Europeans onto antipodean shores, the meticulous Abel Tasman was a different breed. He had the ship's carpenter swim ashore to plant the flag, rather than risk a ship on unknown rocks, to claim Van Diemen's Land in 1642 (now known as Tasmania) in honour of Anthony van Diemen, the governor-general of the Dutch East Indies.

Van Diemen had earned that privilege – under his stewardship, the Dutch East Indies became a centre for frantic map-making and territorial expansion, and Tasman was entirely on message with his employer's way of doing things. With so much intricate detail captured through drawings, diaries and maps on his voyage to Tasmania, and then across the Tasman Sea to become the first European to reach New Zealand, Cook used his writings over a century later as a reference, landing in Poverty Bay to claim it for Britain.

Tasman returned to Australia once more in 1644, mapping the northern shores and choosing the name that would supplant Terra Australis – New Holland. It would survive both Cook and the colony of New South Wales, and only 180 years after Tasman first uttered the name 'New Holland' would it be officially replaced by 'Australia'.

If Abel Tasman was the example that James Cook followed, then William Dampier was the (somewhat dubious) legend that Cook aspired to.

A British buccaneer from humble beginnings, he had circumnavigated the globe a record-breaking three times, writing the bestselling *A New Voyage Round The World* in 1697 and rescuing the man who would become Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe. His adventures impressed the British Admiralty so much that in 1699 – 29 years before Cook's birth – Dampier was given the helm of the HMS Roebuck, and a commission to explore New Holland and uncover the eastern coast that would later fall to Cook. Dampier collected an unprecedented catalogue of Australian plants and wildlife before the rotting Roebuck began to take on water. After some slipshod repairs allowed them to return home – the east coast mission abandoned – the unlikely naturalist was later marooned on Ascension Island.

Court-martialled for losing the vessel in his charge and deemed "unfit to command any of HM's ships, Dampier promptly returned to the life of a sanctioned Jack Sparrow, but not before releasing *A Voyage To New Holland* in 1699, rich with detail of flora, fauna, rocks and even prevailing winds.

Though Dampier had failed in his most strategically important goal – and lost his ship doing so – his voyage pre-empted a paradigm shift, not just in British thinking but in French too. However, this took nearly another century to materialise, and it would again be politics and profits that saw navigators, botanists, explorer and East Indiamen dispatched with flags for planting. The colonial horse-trading and nation-swapping that closed the Seven Years' War in 1763 saw Spain, France and Britain ease into a stand-off far messier and more convoluted than Portugal and Spain in the 15th and 16th centuries, and once more the booming empires had nowhere left to expand but into the unknown.

Naval officers – who, like Cook, had proven their worth in the far-flung theatres of the last war – were dispatched to the Pacific with increasing regularity by a conflict-scale navy with a peacetime surplus of ships, men, money and experience. In quick succession, the Admiralty sent Commodore John Byron in 1765 and then Captain Samuel Wallis in 1766 on the HMS Dolphin, and Captain Phillip Carteret on the HMS Swallow in 1766, and then Cook himself in 1769 – all spreading the red, white and blue across a swathe of Pacific islands, the promise of Terra Australis never far from their minds.

As James Cook and his predecessors raced south just as Tasman and Torres had done before them, their French counterparts at their heels, the map of Australia would continue to be shaded in inch by inch. Whether their sails were buffeted by economic, political or imperial forces as much as by the Roaring Forties, their achievements remain a triumph of reason and discovery. When Cook finally felt Australian sands crunch beneath his feet, it's true that he was building on older expeditions – the writings of Tasman, Dampier and, more recently, Wallis at his hand – as well as the ideas at its heart stretching back to Ancient Greece, but his discoveries would become the foundation for a colony, and eventually a nation.

It would be many more years before European settlers knew for a fact that the land Cook had claimed as New South Wales was connected to New Holland, and *wasn't* connected to Van Diemen's Land, just as it took Cook to prove that these scattered chunks of a much grander country weren't connected to New Zealand or New Guinea (thanks in part to the Spanish keeping Torres' voyage to themselves).

Their vessels cutting across unknown oceans and into alien horizons, these men – this cast of thinkers, seafarers, pirates and traders from across centuries – closed a chapter in Australia's long history, and for better and for worse a new one was about to begin.

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The Last Day of Lincoln

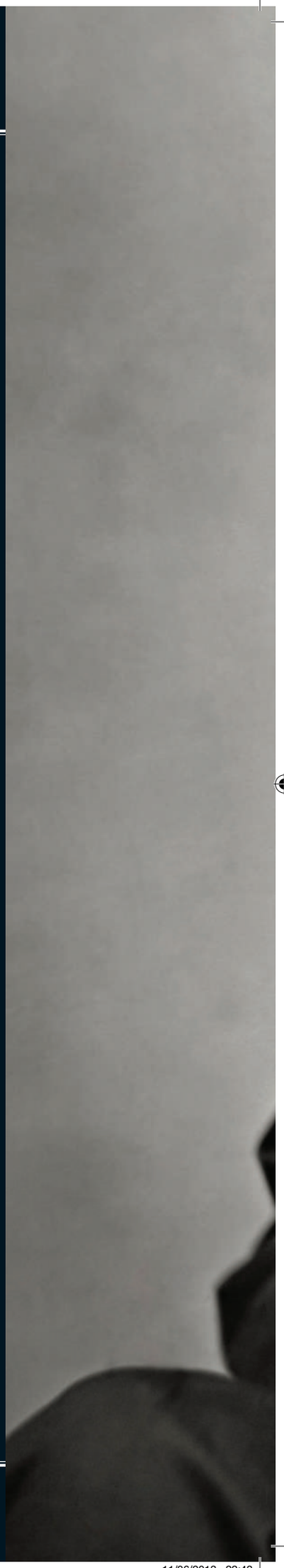
'A day is a long time in politics', so the old saying goes. Policy can be formulated, speeches can be made, ideals can be realised. You can even, when the time is right, kill a President

Written by Rob Jones

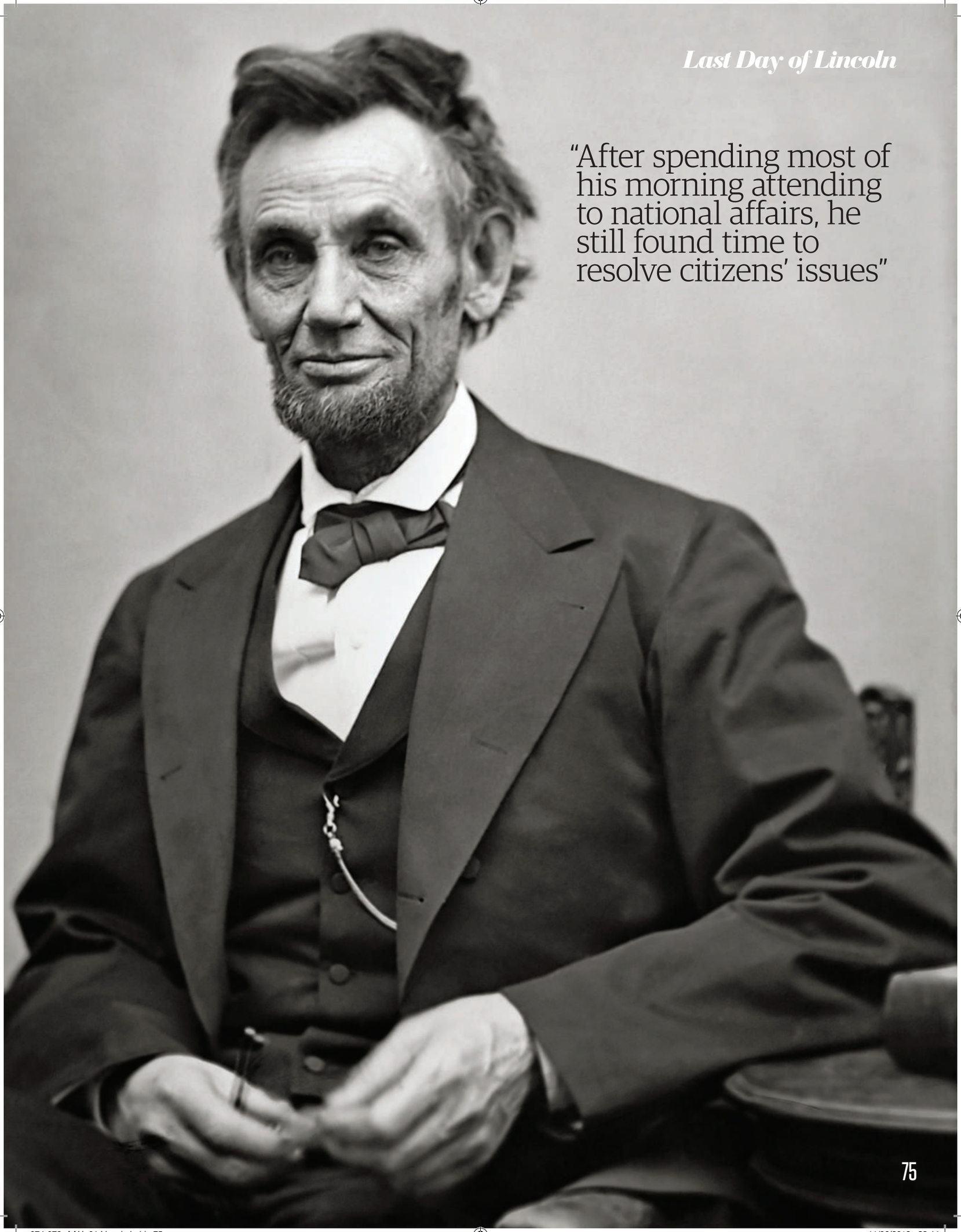
On 9 April 1865 one of the most brutal and fiercely contested civil wars the Earth has ever seen came to a formal close in small, nondescript courthouse in Virginia. General Robert E Lee – leader of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia – was meeting with General Ulysses S Grant, the commander of the Union Army, to sign papers of surrender. The American Civil War between the United States of the Union in the North and the Confederate States of America in the South was officially over. Four years of blood, destruction and wildly differing ideologies of how the newly colonised landmass of North America should be modelled were over. The Confederacy had collapsed; the infrastructure of its southern states lay in ruins. After signing the papers Lee left Appomattox Courthouse and, rode off into the history of the United States. His role in the war was over and he lived out his days as President of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia. In contrast, Grant began his journey back to Washington, the news of his victory advancing faster than any steam locomotive.

At 7am on Friday, 14 April 1865, Abraham Lincoln awoke to a glorious spring day, the weather echoing his desire that a brand new future could emerge from the darkness that had preceded it. Rising promptly and then proceeding to his office in the White House, Lincoln sat behind his large mahogany desk and proceeded to work. His workload was large. Affairs of state were both chaotic and pressing following the recent surrender of the Confederacy, with the rebuilding of the (now broken) nation top priority. After spending around half an hour attending to his paperwork, Lincoln reached for a nearby bell chord and pulled it to summon a personal secretary. Moments later the secretary entered the office and Lincoln relayed instructions that the Assistant Secretary of State, Frederick Seward, should call a cabinet meeting at 11:00am. Little could Lincoln know that, across the American capital, events were transpiring that would lead to this meeting being the last one that he ever chaired.

After working for another short period Lincoln left the office and proceeded to have breakfast with his family. Sitting around the breakfast table Lincoln was joined by his wife Mary Todd Lincoln and sons Robert and Tad Lincoln. While eating, Lincoln listened to his son Robert's account of General Robert E Lee's surrender at the Appomattox Courthouse.



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"After spending most of his morning attending to national affairs, he still found time to resolve citizens' issues"

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Our American Cousin

Among the horrific events of 14 April 1865, one thing tends to be overlooked. It's to do with the actual play that Lincoln was attending. The play, entitled *Our American Cousin*, is a three-act affair by English playwright Tom Taylor, who penned the piece in 1858, seven years prior to Lincoln's assassination. During this period the play received much critical and commercial success, touring America's theatres with a star-filled cast containing some of the best-known actors of the day.

Our American Cousin is a classic farce that traces the return to England of an honest and ignorant American named Asa Trenchard to claim his old family estate. Due to Trenchard's lack of understanding of the English aristocratic traits and manners, as well as his own rustic ways – in one scene, after being introduced to a shower for the first time he proceeds to shower fully clothed – much hilarity ensues, culminating in a series of marriages between the cast.

Famously, in Act III Scene 2 of play, Asa delivers what is considered the funniest line of the play to Mrs Mountchessington, an old aristocratic noblewoman who, despite considering Asa vulgar and not fit to enter the English aristocracy, in fact show herself to be rather rude and vulgar. The line says: "Don't know the manners of good society, eh? Well, I guess I know enough to turn you inside out, old gal – you sockdologizing old man-trap."

Sockdologizing stems from 'socdollager', an uneducated man's misuse of 'doxology', which translates as 'giving praise'. Obviously, Asa is hardly granting Mountchessington praise, so the line comes off as ironic. It was during the laughter that followed this famous line that Booth entered Lincoln's box. Familiar with the play, he hoped the laughter would mask the sound of his gunshot.

Robert Lincoln was a Captain in the Union Army and was present when the papers were signed. While Mary had tickets to go to Grover's Theatre that evening, she wished to go and see the much-celebrated farce *Our American Cousin* at Ford's Theatre. She wanted to see the show with Union army General and war hero, General Ulysses S Grant and his wife, and she requested Lincoln to send an invite. This was a pivotal moment in the history of one of the greatest events that the United States had ever seen – it was a moment in time, a snapshot into the chaos of cause and effect. How could the Lincoln's have known what visiting Ford's Theatre instead of Grover's would lead to?

After breakfasting Lincoln proceeded back to his office and received his first official appointment of the day, Speaker of the House of Representatives Schuyler Colfax. Colfax had come to talk to Lincoln about his intended future policy towards the (now surrendered) pro-Confederacy states, to which Lincoln held the view that they should be an active participant in any rebuilding effort and they should not be heavily penalised for their part in the war. After speaking with Colfax, Lincoln received New Hampshire Senator John P Hale, whose daughter Lucy Hale, had recently come into the spotlight by becoming the fiancée of famous stage actor John Wilkes Booth. Lincoln spoke to Hale about his new role as minister to Spain and after concluding their meeting sent for a courier and informed him to reserve the State Box at Ford's Theatre.

At 11am Lincoln proceeded into the Cabinet Office and began the scheduled meeting of the cabinet. On the agenda were two primary issues – the reconstruction of the country, and how to approach the reconciliation of the northern and southern states. Discussion between the cabinet members, which included General Grant and Edwin Stanton but not Vice-President Andrew Johnson, led to many differing opinions being expressed. However, by the close of the meeting at approximately 2:00pm the men were in general agreement. The southern states would be supported financially during the reconciliation and the leaders of the Confederacy would not be

"How could the Lincoln's have known what visiting Ford's Theatre instead of Grover's would lead to?"



The Presidential Box where Lincoln was shot in Ford's Theatre



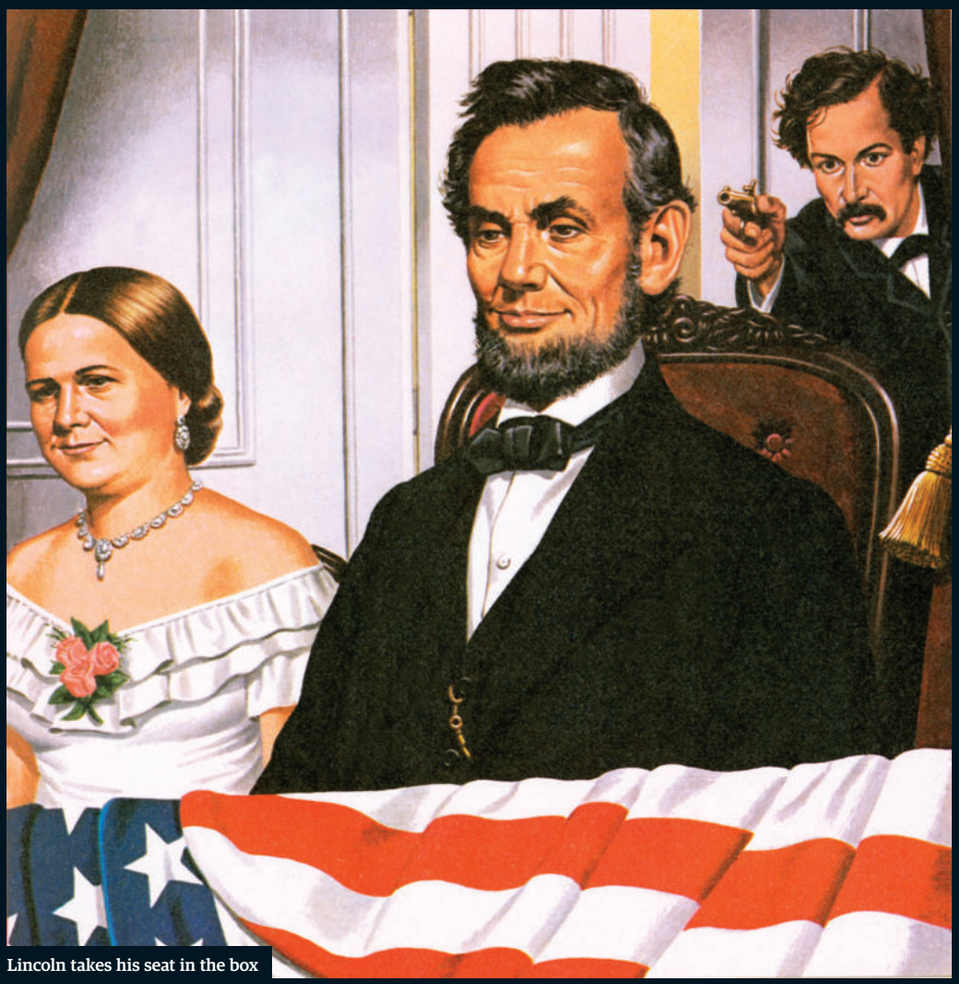
Ford's Theatre in Washington DC was first opened in 1863

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punished further. As the meeting drew to a close General Grant approached Lincoln and informed him that, unfortunately, he and his wife could not attend Our American Cousin that evening as they were travelling out of Washington via train to see their children.

At 2:20pm Lincoln left the cabinet office and proceeded through the White House to have lunch with Mary. Informing her of General Grant's decline of their invitation, it was agreed that Edwin Stanton and his wife would be invited. Following lunch, which lasted till 3:00pm, Lincoln finally met with Vice-President Andrew Johnson, who had arrived to see Lincoln late while the Cabinet meeting was in effect. The President and Vice-President spoke for 20 minutes, discussing recent events and the outcomes of the meeting that Johnson had missed. After Johnson left, Lincoln undertook the last official engagement of his working day, meeting with a former slave named Nancy Bushrod. The meeting was about Nancy's husband, who had served in the Union Army but had not been paid for the last few months. Lincoln promised her that he would resolve the matter. This typified the great man. After spending most of his morning attending to affairs that concerned an entire nation, he still found time to meet with and resolve one citizen's issues.

As the meeting with Nancy concluded, a messenger arrived at the White House stating that the Stantons had declined the offer to attend the theatre with the Lincolns that evening. He met with Mary and informed her of the news and, with his day's work concluded at 4pm, decided to go out with her on a carriage ride. The ride, which took the pair down to the Washington Naval Yard and



Lincoln takes his seat in the box

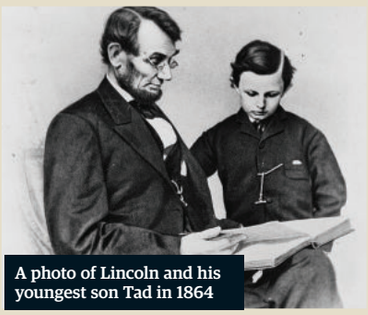
The life of Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was born on 12 February 1809 in Hardin County, Kentucky to Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks Lincoln. His youth was a troubled one. He had two siblings, an older sister Sarah and a younger brother Thomas, the latter of whom died as an infant. After a land dispute, the Lincolns were forced to move to Perry County, Indiana in 1817 and squat on public land. At the age of nine, his mother died of milk sickness.

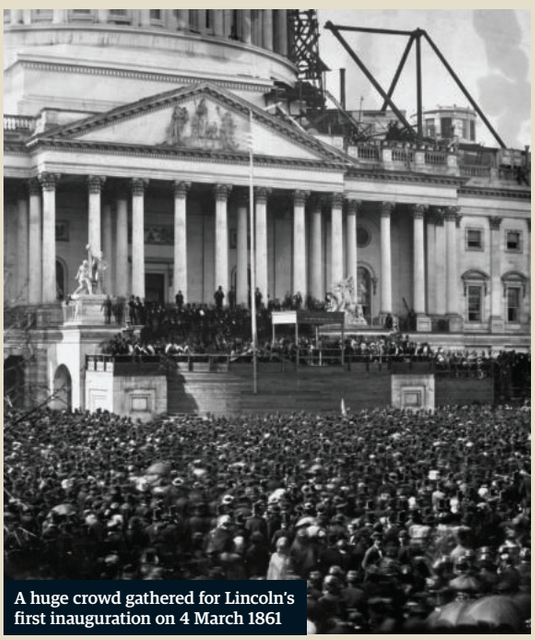
After the family again migrated, this time to Illinois in 1830, Lincoln started to make a living splitting wood and as a shopkeeper. In 1837 he was admitted to the bar and became a lawyer, practising across Illinois until the mid-1840s. In 1842 he married Mary Todd, with whom he had four children (though only one, Robert, survived to maturity). He entered politics briefly in 1847, serving a single two-year term in the House of Representatives, but returned to law in 1849.

It was not until 1856 that Lincoln would again become involved in politics, joining the newly formed Republican Party. After unsuccessfully running for the Senate, Lincoln was nominated as the Republican candidate for the presidency in May 1860 and in November of that year he was elected as the 16th President of the United States.

Prior to Lincoln's inauguration in March 1861, several Southern states had begun to secede from the Union. Following an attack by the South on Fort Sumter in South Carolina, Lincoln was forced to lead the North into the American Civil War with the South. After a successful military campaign, Lincoln was re-elected in 1864. His goal to reunify the country was curtailed when he was assassinated, but his legacy as one of America's greatest leaders will forever be remembered.



A photo of Lincoln and his youngest son Tad in 1864



A huge crowd gathered for Lincoln's first inauguration on 4 March 1861

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back again took approximately two hours, with the Lincoln's arriving back at the White House at 6pm. A pair of old friends met them as they arrived back and Lincoln proceeded to invite them into his office for a catch-up. Shortly after, however, Lincoln received notification that the family meal was ready. After saying goodbye to his visitors, he proceeded with his family to the dining room. It was at this dinner that Mary informed Lincoln that they had finally received an acceptance to attend the theatre, with Major Henry Rathbone and his partner Clara Harris accepting.

After finishing their meal, Mary returned to her room to get ready for the theatre, while Lincoln was unexpectedly called on by former Congressman George Ashmun. Ashmun had no appointment but Lincoln met with him anyway. By 8:05pm Lincoln was still in conversation with Ashmun and, fearing he would arrive too late to the show, requested the meeting be recommenced at 9am the following morning. Lincoln quickly penned a note saying that Ashmun was to be allowed entry the following morning and then proceeded to leave the White House with Mary in a waiting carriage.

The carriage proceeded down the gravel drive of the White House and then continued toward town. After swinging by 712 Jackson Place in Lafayette Square to pick up Major Rathbone and Harris, the Lincoln carriage then made a beeline for Ford's Theatre. The President of the United States then went to see a play.



The carriage used to take the president to the theatre on the night of his assassination

Stepping late into the President's box, the show was halted, Hail to the Chief was played by the orchestra, and then over a thousand theatre goers applauded the great man and his, now realised beyond doubt, ideology that America would be reborn anew, greater and stronger than ever before. Taking their seats once more after the President and his entourage were seated, the audience remained unaware that a drama of far greater significance than anything a comic farce could conjure, was about to play out dramatically before their very eyes.

"Stepping late into the President's box, the show was halted, Hail to the Chief was played by the orchestra"

Lincoln's nightmare

According to Lincoln's friend Ward Hill Lamon, three days prior to his assassination on 14 April the President recounted a strange dream he had had the previous week. Lamon retells the tale in his biography of Lincoln entitled *Recollections of Abraham Lincoln 1847-1865* and describes how Lincoln stated that in his dream he awoke in the White House to the sound of weeping emanating from somewhere in the building. After progressing from room to room and finding 'no living person in sight', Lincoln entered the East Room and discovered a large catafalque with a corpse laying upon it shrouded in funeral vestments. Surrounding the scene were a selection of soldiers and large group of mourners, who were the source of the sobbing. Lincoln accounts that in his dream he approached the corpse and asked one of the soldiers "Who is dead in the White House?" After a pause the soldier replied, "The President, he was killed by an assassin."

While many commentators in the past have added prophetic qualities to this event, which relies entirely on Lamon's testimony, in reality it merely shows the great and very real strain the President was under at the time. Numerous real-life death threats had been received by the President and, with the tumultuous state of America following the bloody and destructive civil war, his death had been, for many years, a very real possibility. Lincoln would never know the timeliness of his dream, and that after recounting it to Lamon within three days he would be indeed assassinated by John Wilkes Booth.

Lincoln's White House

Having been brought up in a rather modest wooden cottage in Springfield, Illinois, Lincoln never quite grew accustomed to his extravagant lodgings in the White House. This iconic building had few aesthetic differences in 1865 to the one that exists today – save for the omission of the West Wing and Oval Office, both of which were built at the start of the 20th century.

President Lincoln's approachable nature meant that he would entertain visitors of any social class at all hours, often receiving people wearing nothing but his dressing gown and slippers. This was typified by his final day when, even with all the goings-on around him, he still found time to shake the hand of a one-armed soldier who had been waiting outside the White House to meet the President himself.



This image from the 1860s is the earliest known of the White House



Lincoln's home in Springfield was in stark contrast to his residency in the White House

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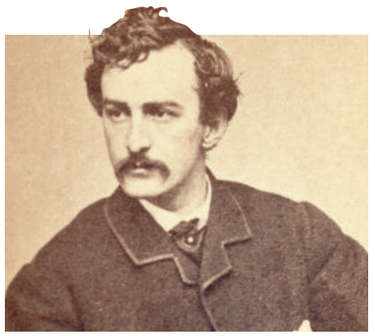
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Genghis Khan:
The People's Barbarian

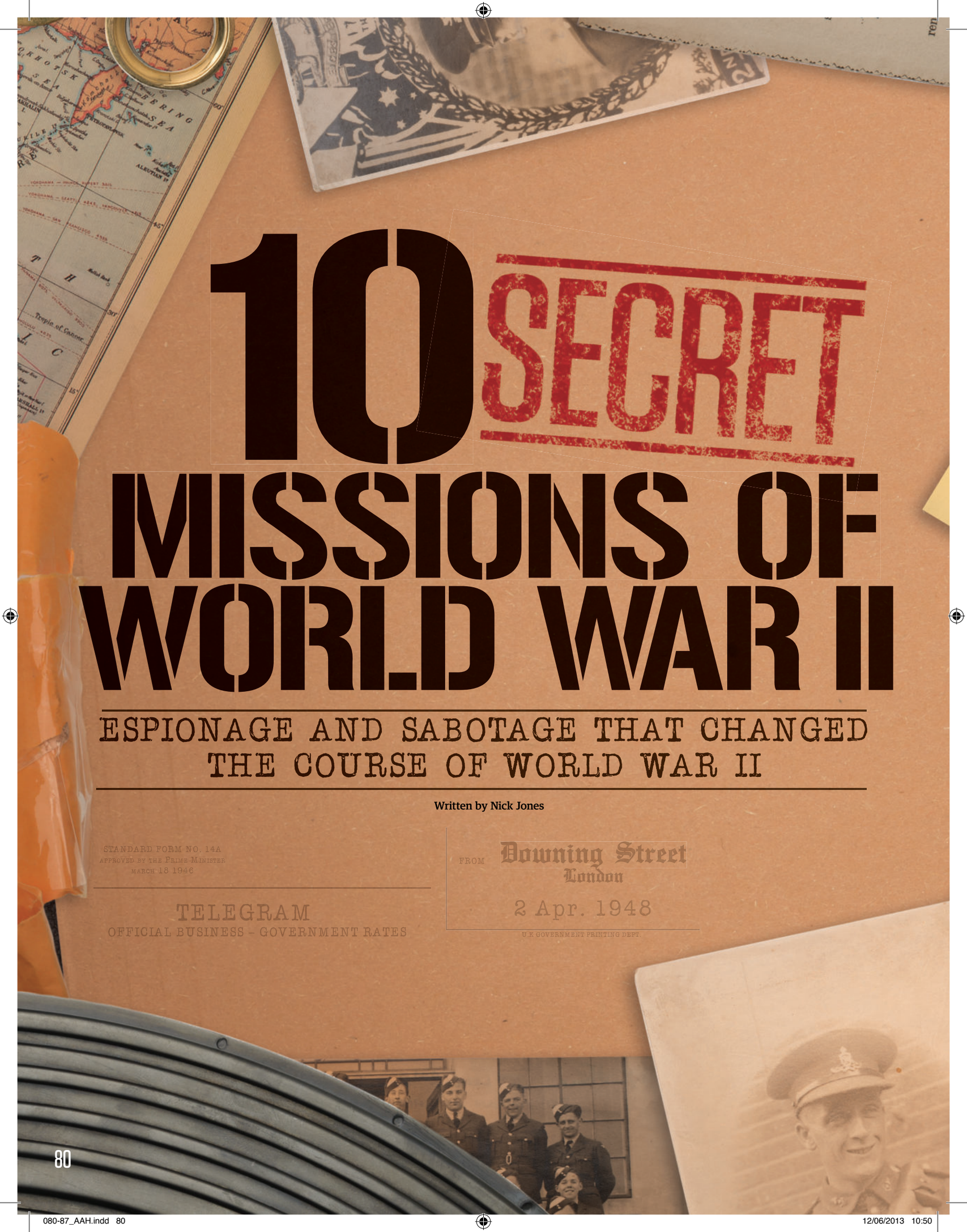
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10 SECRET MISSIONS OF WORLD WAR II

ESPIONAGE AND SABOTAGE THAT CHANGED THE COURSE OF WORLD WAR II

Written by Nick Jones



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World War II was shaped by some of the greatest battles in human history. Fought by millions of soldiers in theaters all around the globe, it was war fought on an unprecedented scale.

But WWII wasn't just fought by soldiers and their industrial war machines. It also saw the emergence of a new type of warfare carried out by a new type of soldier: covert missions and secret operations designed to strike targets deep behind enemy lines.

These missions were just as important as the epic battles. The objectives - successfully completed or not - would swing the war one way or the other, and would have massive ramifications for its ultimate outcome.

They were fought by the brave few in the most dangerous and perilous of situations, as Adolf Hitler's policy of executing all captured enemy commandos meant that those who surrendered would pay the ultimate price.

Many of today's famous covert organisations can trace their roots back to WWII: the British Commandos were formed by Winston Churchill himself; the United States' Office of Strategic Services (OSS) would later become the CIA, while the SAS - arguably the most famous Special Forces outfit of them all - was formed in the North African desert in 1941.

WWII wasn't just fought by the soldiers, though; everyone had their part to play, from civilians to scientists, and some of the most important secret missions of the war were undertaken and won by your average Joe. And, as you'll see, even a dead man played a crucial role in saving thousands of Allied lives in the war against the Nazis.

This feature will examine the most dangerous secret missions undertaken, carried out by the bravest and smartest of soldiers, the men and women with the right stuff that helped decide the greatest conflict in human history through espionage, audacity and courage.

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OPERATION PASTORIUS

Nazis invade the US mainland

Date: May-June 1942

Objective:
To sabotage key economic targets and hinder the US war effort. Targets included the hydroelectric plants at Niagara Falls, Pennsylvania Station in Newark and aluminium plants in Illinois

Belligerents:
Nazi secret agents; FBI

Theater: United States mainland

On 25 May 1942, two Nazi U-boats set sail for the United States. Their destinations were Long Island and Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Each carried four Nazi agents, their mission: to bomb vital US manufacturing infrastructure.

Two among them were Americans citizens: Ernst Burger and Herbert Haupt. The other six agents, while German, had all worked in the US before the war. They brought with them explosives, detonators and about $175,000 in currency, and the campaign was to last two years.

Two of the agents, Burger and George John Dasch, decided to defect as soon as they were ashore. Dasch headed to Washington DC, where he turned himself in to the FBI who, at first, dismissed him as crazy. Dasch's response was to throw his entire $84,000 budget on the desk. He was promptly taken into custody and interrogated.

In the following two weeks the other agents were all arrested and put on trial. All eight agents, including Dasch and Burger, were sentenced to death by electric chair. It was at this point that President Roosevelt stepped in and commuted Dasch and Burger's sentences to 30 years and life respectively. The remaining agents were executed in a DC jail. After the war, Roosevelt granted clemency to Dasch and Burger under the condition that they return to Germany.

Outcome:
With not a single target hit, Operation Pastorius was a complete failure for the Nazis. It didn't work out too well for the agents either: only two survived, and only then after the intervention of President Roosevelt.

FAILURE





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THE TIZARD MISSION

Churchill's love letter to America

Date: September 1940

Objective:
Scientific and technical co-operation with the United States in order to maintain its aid to Britain

Belligerents:
Henry Tizard; members of the British army and scientific community

Theater: United States mainland

Not every secret mission conducted during the war featured fearless soldiers performing great acts of heroism under the cover of darkness; the suits and the scientists had a role to play too.

One such mission would have massive implications for Britain's standing in the post-war industrial world, a mission that saw Winston Churchill gift the US some of Britain's most advanced technology. In return, the US would lend its enormous industrial weight to Britain's cause.

Churchill sent Henry Tizard, along with a number of other leading scientists and engineers, on the mercy mission. They took with them the most advanced avionics and aviation tech the world had ever seen: Frank Whittle's designs for the first ever jet engine; plans for an atomic bomb and, perhaps most importantly, something called a magnetron, which is a key component in Radar and can be found in today's microwave ovens (in case you're wondering, it's the part that generates the microwaves).

So precious were the documents and prototypes that they took, they were carried in a case that was designed to sink should their boat be torpedoed by Nazi U-boats.

The mission was a short-term success - the US indeed came to Britain's aid. Long term, though, Britain paid the price, and with the Tizard tech, the US stole the lead on the UK in avionics, and has never looked back.

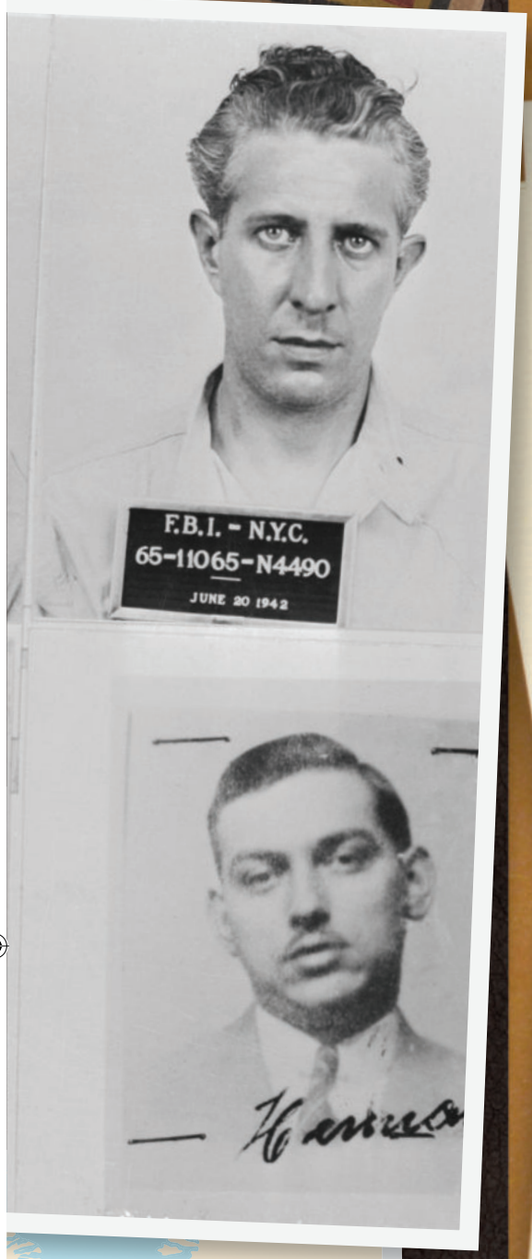
Mind you, you can't really blame Churchill for giving it all up when the Luftwaffe and German Navy threatened invasion on a daily basis.

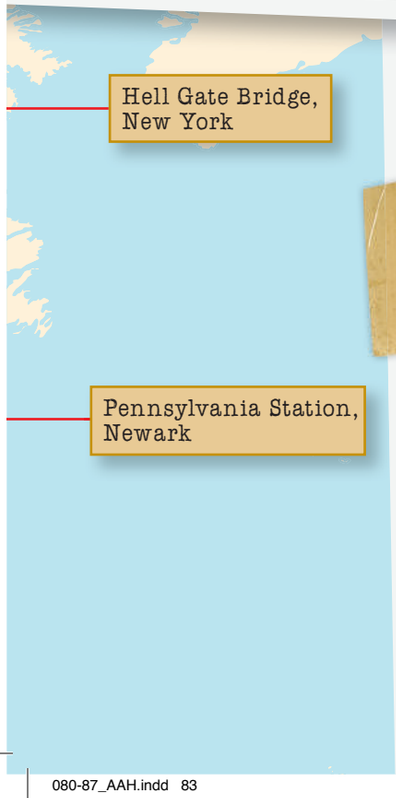
WHO WAS HENRY TIZARD?

Henry Tizard (1885-1959) was a scientist, pilot, Fellow of the Royal Society, and in his career worked for the RAF, Shell, the Ministry Of Munitions and Winston Churchill as a scientific advisor.

Tizard was first knighted in 1927, then again in 1937 (as Knight Commander) and for a third time in 1949 when he became Knight Grand Cross, the highest grading of knighthood.

After World War II, he became Britain's chief scientific advisor, and was involved with, among other projects, the investigation of UFOs and research into brainwashing with the CIA.







Outcome:
While the mission was a success, the secret technology provided a huge boost to the American aviation and avionics industries in the post-war period. By contrast, Britain's industry waned.

SUCCESS

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The cockleshell heroes

OPERATION FRANKTON

Date: 7-12 December 1942

Objective:
Plant limpet mines on German cargo ships moored in Bordeaux, sink the ships, escape to Spain

Belligerents:
Royal Marines; German Navy

Theater: Europe

The Bay of Biscay, 1942. A British submarine surfaces some miles from the Gironde estuary. Five canoes entered the water, each containing two Royal Marines and a cargo of limpet mines. They set off for Bordeaux, their target: German cargo ships moored in port. Between them and their target? Two naval trawlers, 12 E-boats, 12 patrol boats, six M-class mine sweepers, the German army and over 50 miles of rough seas and tidal waters. Chances of success? Nearly zero.

In September that year, the British had identified Bordeaux a key target. The French port was a vital cog in the Nazi war machine, as the destination for many essential raw materials that kept the German army on the move. So on 7 December, a special Royal Marine unit set out to sink as many cargo ships as they could and then, assuming they survived the raid, escape through the Pyrenees to Spain and then home to Britain.

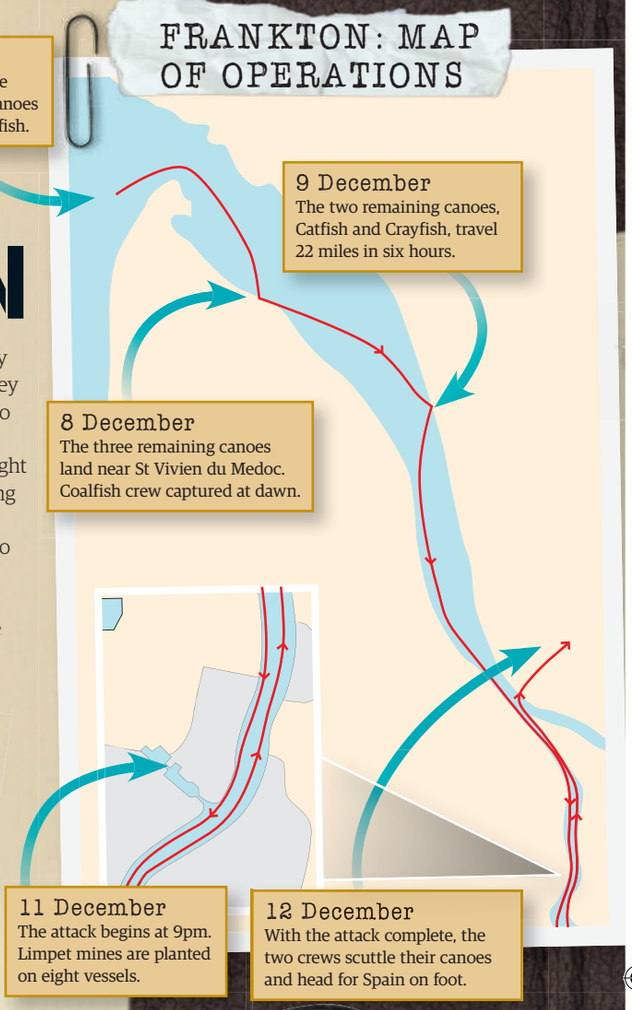
Things didn't start out too well. On the first night two canoes were lost at sea. Then, on the morning of 8 December, the crew of the Coalfish were captured by Germans. This left just two canoes to complete the attack.

By 11 December, they reached Bordeaux and were ready for the attack. The Catfish took to the western bank, while the Crayfish went south. In all they attached limpet mines to eight ships, continued down river and made their escape.

Outcome:
The mission was a resounding and miraculous success; Churchill said that the mission shortened the war by six months.

SUCCESS

FRANKTON: MAP OF OPERATIONS



OPERATION FLIPPER

Exterminate the Desert Fox

Date: 10-18 November 1941

Objective:
Assassinate Field Marshal Erwin Rommel

Belligerents:
British Commandos; Afrika Korps

Theater: North Africa

North Africa, winter 1941. Rommel's forces had the British 8th Army pinned in the siege of Tobruk and were threatening to take Egypt. While there were plans in place to turn this situation around, Churchill saw an opportunity to use his Commandos to carry out an audacious plan: assassinate Rommel.

Rommel's HQ was believed to be at Beda Littoria in a villa 29 kilometres (18 miles) from Apollonia, Libya. On 10 November, 59 commandos boarded two RN submarines. Their destination would be a beach 400 kilometres (250 miles) inside enemy lines. Things didn't start too well; only 36 made it ashore due to poor weather, but this wasn't going to stop the commandos. They improvised, splitting up into three teams and each taking a different target. These included communications facilities and Rommel himself.

The team made it to the villa, but were fought off by German troops and lost their commanding officer, Lt Col Geoffrey Keyes. Although most of the commandos made it to their extraction point, the bad weather made it impossible for them to re-embark on the submarines. Only two commandos made it home after a lengthy trek through the desert.

Outcome:
The mission was a total failure, although Rommel was said to have remarked, "It was a brilliant operation and [carried out] with great audacity."

FAILURE



THE DESERT FOX:

Erwin Rommel (1891-1944) is considered to be one of the great German military leaders of World War II. He played a role in the invasions of France and Belgium in 1940 and the defence of Normandy in 1944.

But it was in north Africa where he earned his Desert Fox nickname and first came up against his most famous opponent, Field Marshal Montgomery.

Sent to Libya in 1941, Rommel and his Panzer divisions were to support the Italian forces and push the Allies out of Africa. A combination of superior tanks and Rommel's brilliant tactics almost lead to defeat for Montgomery.

Aside from his military achievements, Rommel was no fan of Hitler and his policies, ignoring all orders to kill civilians, enemy commandos and Jewish soldiers. Then, late in the war, he was involved in a plot to kill Hitler. Discovered, Rommel was forced to commit suicide after making a deal to protect his family.

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MISSION UNKNOWN

USS Indianapolis delivers the atomic bomb

Date: July 1945

Objective:
Delivery of the Little Boy atomic bomb to the US Air Force

Belligerents:
US Navy; Imperial Japanese Navy

Theater: The Pacific

30 July 1945. A lone cruiser is steaming its way from Guam to the Philippines. Suddenly two explosions rip through the ship's bow. She begins to list, rolls over and sinks without a trace. In just 12 minutes she is gone.

Just days before, the Portland-class cruiser USS Indianapolis had performed – arguably – the most important mission of the Pacific War to date. She had delivered vital parts for the Little Boy atomic bomb, including the exploding part, Uranium-235. In fact, the Little Boy bomb had required about half of the world's supply of this precious resource.

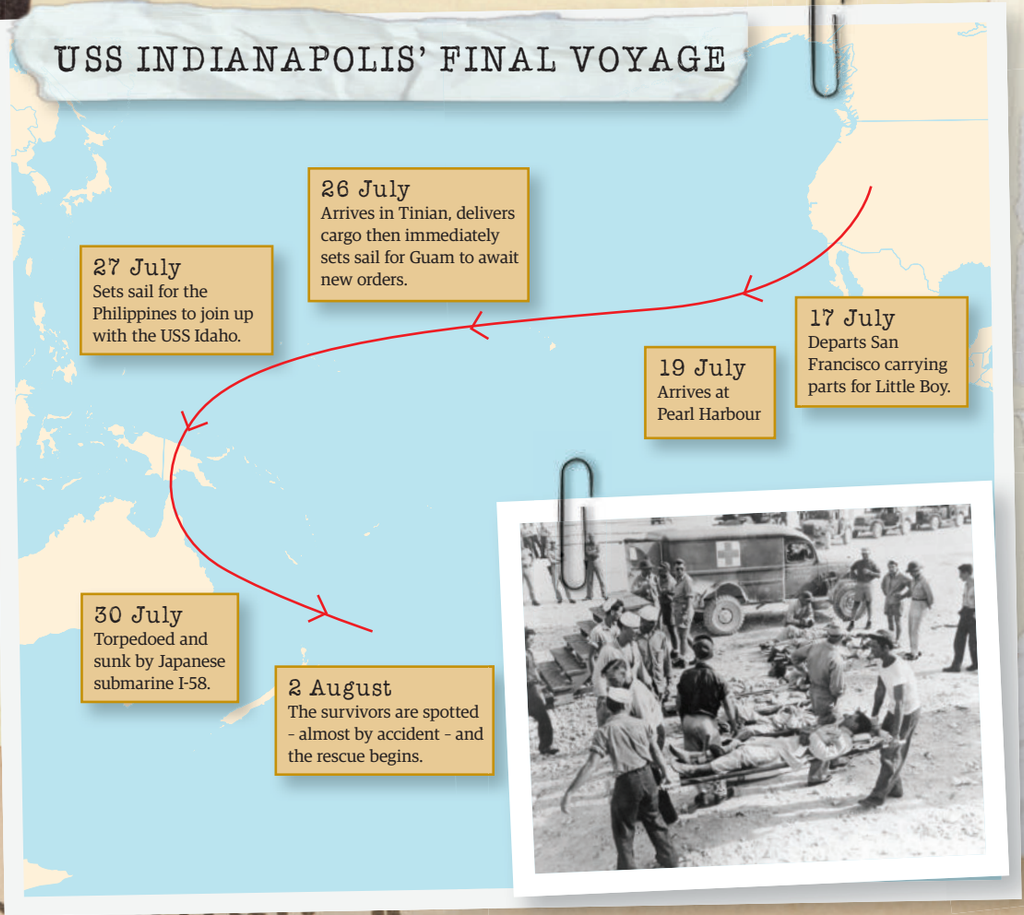
Her destination was the US base on the island of Tinian. Once delivery had been completed, she had received new orders: to rendezvous with the USS Idaho at Leyte in the Philippines. That was when the Japanese subs found her.

Inexplicably, the Indianapolis had been allowed to travel without an escort and without any sort of submarine detection equipment, and now her sailors would pay the price. The speed of her sinking, according to the official report, meant that her crew hadn't sent a distress call. No one knew she was in trouble.

It was only by chance that the Indianapolis's crew were spotted by American pilots on a routine sortie. By that time, the crew had been in the water for three days. Of the 1,196 men aboard, 900 made it into the water. By the time the rescue began on 2 August, only 317 sailors had survived; nearly 600 lives were lost to exposure, suicide, dehydration and shark attacks.

The delivery of the bomb had been a success, but at what price? The sinking of the Indianapolis remains, to this day, the biggest naval disaster in American history.

USS INDIANAPOLIS' FINAL VOYAGE



Revenge for Pearl Harbour

OPERATION VENGEANCE

Date: 18 April 1943

Objective:
The assassination of Admiral Yamamoto, commander of the Imperial Japanese Navy

Belligerents:
US Navy; Imperial; Japanese Navy

Theater: The Pacific

7 December 1941: the day that Japan attacked the US Navy at Pearl Harbor, and America joined World War II. The man who planned the attack? Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commander of the Imperial Japanese Navy.

The US Navy made a breakthrough in early 1943 when they broke Japanese naval codes. So when a message was intercepted in April that detailed Yamamoto's inspection trip to the Solomon Islands, the Navy drew up a plan to intercept and shoot him down. US planes needed to make a 1,000-mile round trip to avoid detection, meaning there was only one plane with the range to execute it: the P-38G Lightning. To avoid detection, the planes had to fly no higher than 50 feet (15 metres) and observe radio silence. They arrived at the intercept point one minute early. With the fighter escorts engaged by the US pilots, one of the Lightnings attacked Yamamoto's transport and hit it, causing it to plummet into the jungle below. The Lightnings then broke off their attack and returned to base.

Outcome:
The US Navy got their man, Japanese morale was damaged and revenge was taken for the attack on Pearl Harbor.

SUCCESS



TARGET PROFILE: ISOROKU YAMAMOTO

- Born: 1884, Nagaoka, Japan
- Died: April 1943, Papua New Guinea
- Rank: Marshal Admiral
- Allegiance: Japanese Empire

Born Isoroku Takano, Yamamoto was the son of Takano Sadayoshi, a samurai in the Nagaoka Domain. He was adopted in 1916 by the Yamamoto family and took their name; by this time he had served in the Imperial Japanese Navy for 12 years, and had reached the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

In 1923 has was made Captain, and in 1940 he became Admiral.

Between 1919-21, Yamamoto studied at Harvard University, something that may account for his opposition to war against the US. In spite of this, it was his plan that the Imperial Japanese Navy followed when they attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941.

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TASK FORCE BAUM

Patton's greatest blunder



Date: 26 March 1945

Objective:
Liberate the POW camp Oflag XIII-B, and in the process rescue Patton's son-in-law, John K Waters

Belligerents:
US Army; German Army; Home Guard

Theater: Europe

Conceived by General Patton and commanded by Captain Abraham Baum – the goal of Task Force Baum was to drive 50 miles into enemy territory and liberate a POW camp at Hammelburg in Germany.

This was no ordinary POW camp, however, because John K Waters, Patton's son-in-law, was being held there. Waters had been captured in Tunisia during the campaign in north Africa, and had recently been moved there from Silesia, giving Patton his chance. The main problem the task force faced was that they didn't know where the camp was, and with only 15 maps between them, they were forced to rely on information they got from questioning the locals to get to their target.

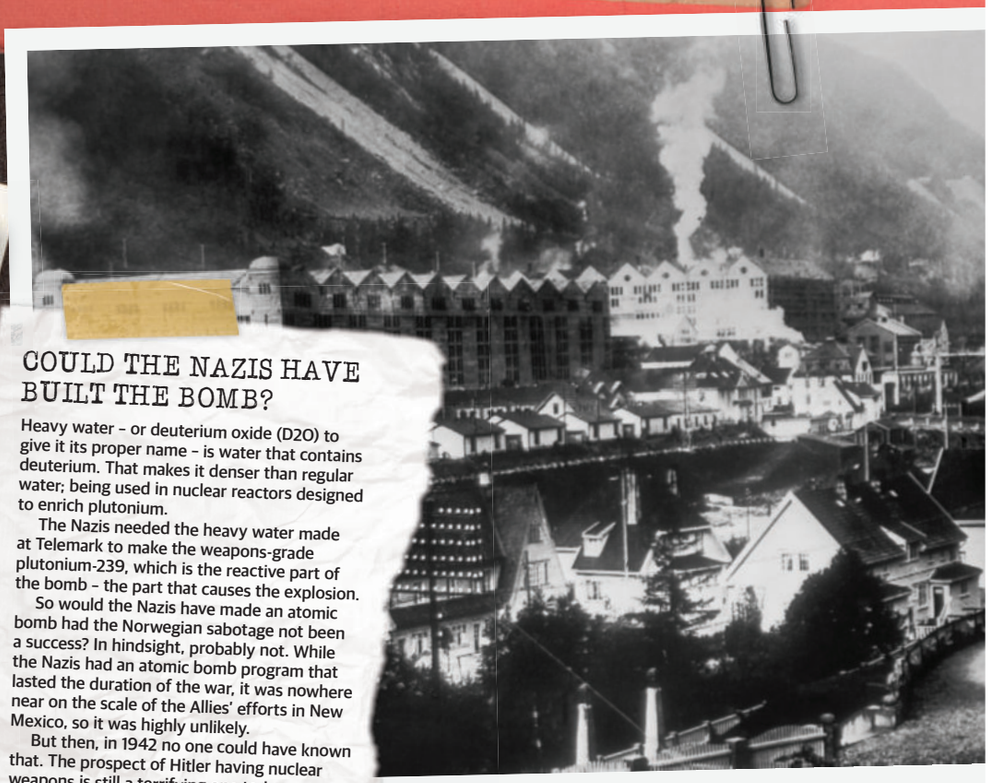
By 27 March, they had reached the camp. Waters was found, but was shot in the buttocks by a German soldier. Unable to move, he had to be left at the camp. When Baum's task force began its move back to friendly lines, they were surrounded and attacked by German forces, and were forced to surrender. Little had Baum known that his task force had been shadowed by a German observation plane the entire time. Out of the 300 men who took part, 32 were killed in action and 35 made it back to Allied territory, with the remainder being captured, including Baum.

Outcome:
Total failure. Patton was reprimanded by General Eisenhower for his actions. But at least Baum got a medal for his troubles.

FAILURE

TASK FORCE BAUM: PATTON'S TEAM TO LIBERATE OFLAG XIII-B.

- **Company A** – 10th Armoured Battalion: 4 officers and 169 men in half-track personnel carriers.
- **Company C** – 37th Tank Battalion: 3 officers and 56 men in tanks.
- **Company D** – 37th Tank Battalion: 1 officer and 18 in tanks.
- **Command & Support** – 10th Armoured Infantry Battalion: 3 officers and 60 men, assorted other vehicles.



COULD THE NAZIS HAVE BUILT THE BOMB?

Heavy water – or deuterium oxide (D2O) to give it its proper name – is water that contains deuterium. That makes it denser than regular water; being used in nuclear reactors designed to enrich plutonium.

The Nazis needed the heavy water made at Telemark to make the weapons-grade plutonium-239, which is the reactive part of the bomb – the part that causes the explosion.

So would the Nazis have made an atomic bomb had the Norwegian sabotage not been a success? In hindsight, probably not. While the Nazis had an atomic bomb program that lasted the duration of the war, it was nowhere near on the scale of the Allies' efforts in New Mexico, so it was highly unlikely.

But then, in 1942 no one could have known that. The prospect of Hitler having nuclear weapons is still a terrifying one today.

OPERATION GUNNERSIDE

The real heroes of Telemark

Date: 16-28 February 1943

Objective:
Destruction of the Vemork Norsk hydro-chemical plant in Telemark

Protagonists:
SOE; British Commandos; Norwegian resistance; Nazi Germany

Theater: Europe

In 1942, the race to build the world's first atomic bomb was on. While the Americans and British worked on the Manhattan Project in New Mexico, the Nazis were busy making strides towards the same goal in Norway.

The Vemork hydro-chemical plant was the only place in the world that was producing heavy water – an important component in building an atomic reactor – and the Nazis had it. The Allies knew that they had to stop production at the plant, but the factory was deep in the mountains, making an air raid impossible. The British Special Operations Executive (SOE) had already inserted agents into the area in the previous year (Operation Grouse) and presided over a disastrous assault operation (Freshman) in November 1942, where all the British commandos had been killed. Now it was the turn of the Norwegians.

Six Norwegian commandos were parachuted into Telemark on 16 February. They met up with the Grouse agents and made plans for a final assault. The only option open was a ground assault via the only access to the factory: across a narrow bridge suspended 300 metres (985 feet) above a valley floor. The area was mined and guarded with spotlights. But instead of attacking via the bridge, the men decided to climb down into the valley, cross the frozen river and climb back up the other side. Incredibly, they made it unseen into the factory. An agent inside the factory had passed on detailed plans so they knew exactly where to go and where to plant their explosives. The charges were placed, and a British machine gun was left behind so the Nazis would think it had been an entirely British operation – preventing any reprisals against the local population. The charges were lit and the plant's heavy water chambers were totally destroyed.

Outcome:
The Nazis' supply of heavy water was completely destroyed and vital manufacturing equipment was damaged as well. A massive manhunt ensued, but to no avail: the commandos were able to make their escape through Norway and Sweden.

SUCCESS

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Sink the Tirpitz!

OPERATION SOURCE

Date: 20-23 September 1943

Objective:
Sink three heavy German war ships stationed in Norway – the Tirpitz, Schamhorst and Lützow.

Belligerents:
Royal Navy; Royal Australian Navy; German Navy (Kriegsmarine)

Theater: North Sea



With the war against the Soviet Union underway, Hitler ordered his ships in the North Sea to intercept and sink the Soviet convoys transporting supplies from Iceland. The British response to this was to launch an audacious attack on three of the Kriegsmarine's largest ships: Schamhorst, Lützow and Tirpitz.

As one of Germany's largest two battleships, the Tirpitz was highly prized. Churchill said of it, "The destruction or even crippling of this ship is the greatest event at the present time." The three ships were stationed in occupied Norway. The British plan was to sneak up to the ships in three-man X-class midget subs and use explosives to breach the ships' hulls. The six midget subs, designated HMS Thrasher (X5), Truculent (X6), Stubborn (X7), Sea Nymph (X8), Syrtis (X9), and Sceptre (X10) were towed on conventional submarines from Scotland to Norway on 20 September; the X-craft attacked on 22 September. Three X-craft were lost on their way to the targets, leaving the X5 (the fleet flagship), the X6 and X7 to attack the Tirpitz. It's believed that the X5 was sunk by the Tirpitz, but the X6 and X7 were both able to drop their charges below their target. The charges detonated and the Tirpitz did not sink, but was so heavily damaged that she was disabled for six months. The two X-boats were spotted and attacked. The men had to abandon the subs and were captured.

Outcome:
Although the Tirpitz wasn't sunk, she was significantly damaged – so much so that she remained out of action until April 1944.

SUCCESS

TARGET: GERMAN BATTLESHIP TIRPITZ

Tirpitz was one of the two largest German battleships of World War II, the other being the infamous Bismarck.

Tirpitz's main armaments consisted of eight 15-inch guns situated in four twin turrets. She measured 251m (825ft) end to end, had a top speed of 56 km/h (35mph) and a range of 16,145km (10,200 mi). Her complement was over 2,000 men.

Her role in the war was two-fold: to deter against the prospect of an Allied invasion, in addition to preventing a breakout attack by the Soviet Navy. She was also used to intercept Allied supply ships supplying the Soviets.

The Tirpitz was eventually destroyed in September 1944 by RAF Lancaster bombers using 5,400kg (11,900lb) Tallboy bombs.

OPERATION MINCEMEAT

How a dead spy fooled the Nazis and changed the war

Date: 30 April 1943

Objective:
Spread disinformation to cover the Allied invasion of Italy

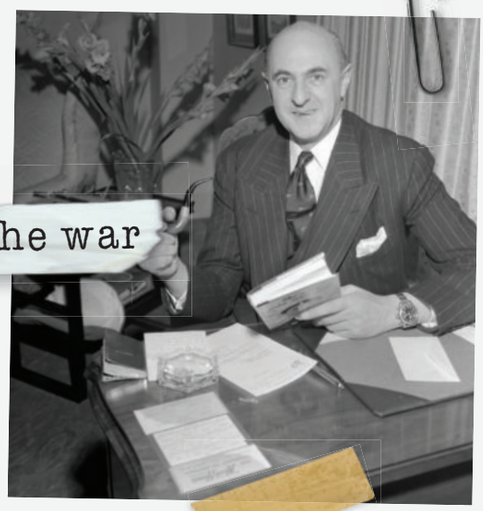
Belligerents:
SOE; Abwehr (German intelligence)

Theater: Italy

Operation Mincemeat was arguably the greatest wartime deception ever conceived, made even more remarkable by one thing: the spy who pulled it off was dead.

Mincemeat was the brainchild of two men: Charles Cholmondeley and Ewen Montagu. The aim of the mission was to fool the Nazis into thinking the Allies would invade Greece, when the real target was Sicily. Their plan was to use a recently deceased body and give it a new identity: a wallet with papers, bills, photographs and so on was placed on it; a whole, convincing back story so that the Nazis would believe this was a real person. Crucially they also handcuffed an official-looking briefcase to the body which contained false letters about the Allied invasion of Greece.

'William Martin' was discovered on the morning of 30 April by a Spanish sardine fisherman and was taken to Adolf Clauss, an Abwehr agent working in Huelva, Spain. Mincemeat was swallowed hook, line and sinker, and the misinformation went up the chain of command, all the way to Hitler. As a result, the Nazis redirected their defences to Greece, in the process substantially weakening its Sicilian defence force. So sure were the Germans of the truth of William Martin's letters that they believed the invasion of Sicily was a diversionary tactic and that the real attack would be in Greece. By the time they reacted – two weeks later – the Allies had gained a vital foothold and were on the way to liberating Italy.



Outcome:
Operation Mincemeat was a complete success and saved thousands of lives in the process. As a footnote, one of the agents who worked on the operation was Ian Fleming, who would go on to write the James Bond novels.

SUCCESS

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Day-Lewis plays the paternal president





Presidential pardon

LINCOLN

Available on: Blu-ray, DVD, iTunes,



Lincoln is one of those films that has "Academy Award winner" on the poster before it's even been released. It's a biopic of one of American history's most widely deified figures by one of the most beloved filmmakers in cinema history, starring a man who collects Oscars like some people collect stamps. Rather than attempting a broad biopic, director Steven Spielberg and writer Tony Kushner (who also wrote Spielberg's *Munich*) focus on the President's attempt to push the 13th Amendment through the House of Representatives, while simultaneously seeking an end to the Civil War. Facing strong opposition both from pro-slavery Congressmen and those who believe that the issue is a distraction from the peace process, Lincoln turns to abolitionist Thaddeus Stevens (Tommy Lee Jones) to be his voice in the House.

Spielberg has marshalled in an extraordinary cast, with familiar faces appearing for about five minutes before disappearing to be replaced by another. *Lincoln* serves as a rounded, fairly comprehensive view of who was involved in the House-bound battle and in what capacity. It's interesting to note, however, that despite the film boasting historical accuracy (it certainly gives the impression), there are some discrepancies and omissions, as a senator from Connecticut has already pointed out.

Although there are times when *Lincoln* feels a little too much like a lecture, the film is at its best when it's telling us what we don't already know. It's fairly common knowledge that it took a great deal of effort to get the 13th Amendment passed. What is fascinating is discovering the exact lengths that Lincoln went to in order to obtain those crucial votes. Three 'operatives' (William Bilbo, Richard Schnell and Robert Latham) were hired to 'convince' Congressman to vote in favour of the amendment via whatever underhand means they saw fit: booze, food, moral guilt. In a film that occasionally relies on proselytising, watching these three characters connive their way to the number of votes required is tremendous fun, and James Spader steals the film as the foul-mouthed boozy Bilbo.

But those moments of humour are rare. This is a serious film about a serious subject, and Spielberg is determined to remind his audience of just how much is at stake at every turn. He's helped immeasurably in this by his star, as Day-Lewis gives a towering performance as Lincoln. The strain and doubt that he is forced to live with is etched into every line on his face. The actor and the director portray Lincoln as an extremely paternal president. He's a father figure to the nation, to the soldiers who can quote his speeches back to him, and to the White House aides who hang on his every word.

This paternal responsibility is contrasted with his inability to successfully communicate with his son Robert Todd Lincoln (Joseph Gordon-Levitt), who is determined to join the Union Army. It's also here that the film starts to buckle under the strain of its dual responsibilities: to accurately and sensitively depict how the 13th Amendment was passed, and to accurately and sensitively portray Abraham Lincoln as a president and a father. There's simply not enough room in the (admittedly not particularly brief) 150-minute running time to do both, and so much of the president's personal life is reduced to shorthand.

"Day-Lewis gives a towering performance as Lincoln, strain and doubt etched into his face"

Verdict ★★★☆☆



If you like this try...
John Adams HBO
The King's Speech director Tom Hooper's superb account of the political figure, key in the American struggle for independence.

Fact vs fiction in Lincoln

How historically accurate is the film?
Opinion has varied on this one. A senator from Connecticut has complained that all four representatives from their state voted in favour of the 13th Amendment, which is not what is depicted in the film, and screenwriter Kushner acknowledges this. Additionally, there are those who feel that there is not a sufficient African-American presence in the film. The most pointed absence is that of freed slave and author Frederick Douglass, who visited Lincoln after the Emancipation Proclamation.

Daniel Day-Lewis is known for his accents. How's his Lincoln?
Historians agree that Day-Lewis' voice as Lincoln works very well as a best-guess. There are no recordings of the President speaking, but the actor based his speech pattern on statements of those who heard the man. By all accounts, it was nasal and reedy, which is exactly what Day-Lewis delivered.

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Walk in the park

HYDE PARK ON HUDSON

Available on: Blu-ray, DVD, iTunes, Netflix

Murray has an easy ride with the role.



Narrated by Roosevelt's sixth cousin and mistress Margaret Suckley (Laura Linney), *Hyde Park On Hudson* deals with the weekend in June 1939 that King George VI (Samuel West) and Queen Elizabeth (Olivia Colman) visited FDR (Bill Murray) at his country estate in upstate New York. George and Elizabeth were hoping to convince the president that America needed to intervene in WWII, but it wasn't just him who needed convincing. The American people were watching.

One of the film's major problems is that it doesn't know which story it wants to tell. It begins and ends with the quietly passionate Margaret's intrusive narration about her budding romance, but has one eye on the event's historical importance. She is often simply an observer, as George and Elizabeth fret over whether hot dogs are appropriate and if FDR is taking them seriously.

A cynical person would accuse the filmmakers of attempting to cash in on *The King's Speech*. It certainly never reaches the level of quality of Tom Hooper's crowd-pleaser, because it's far too unsure of itself. The film is happy to portray FDR as a philanderer but never judges him for it. The film's few edgy moments come from the relationship between George and Elizabeth, two very strong performances by West and Colman. As for Murray, he gives a fine turn but he's never once challenged by the material. Satisfying as neither a love story nor a historical drama, this is an extremely lightweight affair.

Verdict ★★☆☆☆



If you like this try...

The King's Speech

You might as well skip the imitative *Hyde Park On Hudson* for Tom Hooper's Oscar-winner, if you haven't seen it already.

Propaganda or protest?

ART OF CONFLICT: THE MURALS OF NORTHERN IRELAND

Available on: Netflix



An exploration of sectarian violence through art.



At first glance, the idea of Vince Vaughn, best known for being a big obnoxious jerk in big-budget comedies like *Dodgeball* and *Wedding Crashers*, taking on a documentary about 30 years of sectarian conflict in Northern Ireland is crass enough to rival anything in his films. Produced and narrated by Vince, and directed by his older sister Valerie Vaughn, *Art Of Conflict: The Murals Of Northern Ireland* is a far subtler exploration of the country's troubled recent history than even the most generous would expect.

Using the striking political wall art found across Republican and Unionist communities in Belfast and Derry/Londonderry as a framing device, the Vaughns talk to politicians (including Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams), mural artists, academics and former activists from both sides. Now as much tourist attractions as symbols of pride, these images draw the narrative through this dramatic and bloody era, from the Civil Rights marches and the deployment of British troops to Enniskillen and Bloody Sunday, and then through to the lasting hopes for peace.

The focus on art, and seeing events through the lens of these provocative murals, allows the Vaughns to circumnavigate the whole issue of objective truth in this complex maze of claims and counterclaims. The success of *Art Of Conflict* hinges entirely on presenting the image itself as of paramount importance, locking the concept of bias out of the equation entirely as the murals' stylised and obviously subjective view of the situation becomes the whole story.

It has a naturalistic and intimate charm, making a virtue of the obviously lean budget. A fascinating and insightful slice of social history.

Verdict ★★★★☆



If you like this try...

Bloody Sunday

James Nesbitt stars in this intense reconstruction of 30 January 1972's descent into a bloody and disorientating massacre.

HISTORICAL APPS

Educational content for iPhone, iPad and Android

HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE AGES 101: THE TEXTVOOK

Android: OS 2.2 | £3.04/$4.99
iPhone+: iOS 3.2 | £2.99/$4.99

The Vook in the title refers to a cartoon professor who introduces eight chapters of detailed text with a short, witty video. This app has a decent mix of detail and humour.

BRITANNICA KIDS: KNIGHTS & CASTLES

Android: OS 2.3 | £1.24/$1.99
iPhone+: iOS 3.0 | £4.99/$4.99

Just what you would expect from *Encyclopaedia Britannica*: informative and well designed. *Knights & Castles* represents history as exciting and relevant.

D-DAY 1944

Android: OS 2.1 | £1.79/$1.99
iPhone+: 3GS+ | iOS 5.0 | £0.69/$0.99

Professionally produced, this is an impressive guide to the Allies' historic invasion that neatly combines audio, animations and text to recount one of history's biggest battles.

GLORY OF INDIA (HISTORY)

Android: OS 2.2 | £1.28/$1.99 | v1.4.0
iPhone+: 3GS+ | iOS 4.3 | £1.49/$1.99 | v1.5.0

India has a rich history and this app does a decent job of compiling lots of information. It includes important dates going back to 600BC.

US HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS PRO

Android: OS 2.1 | £1.25/$1.99| v1.4.0
iPhone+: iOS 2.2.1 | £2.99/$4.99

US Historical Documents Pro contains over 200 of the most influential documents in US history allowing you compile a political/social history of the US.

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PATTON The man for his time and place

Available on: Blu-ray, DVD, iTunes, LoveFilm, Netflix

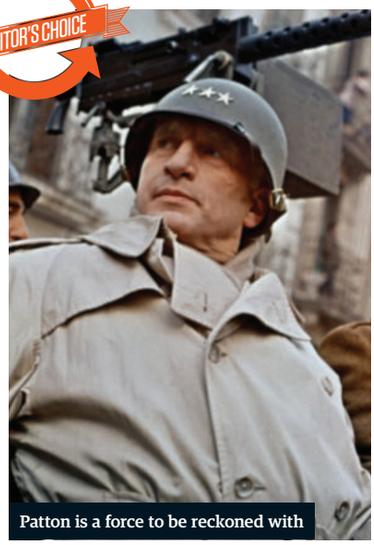


We all know the opening scene of *Patton*, but there was a lot of fretting about at what point Patton should deliver his big speech. George C. Scott thought that the speech should close the film, believing that it would overshadow anything that came after it. Writer Francis Ford Coppola was determined that Patton had to open with a demonstration of his oratory powers. Coppola was right. Anyone who's seen *Patton* will tell you that the opening scene is a masterclass. Although the monologue itself was cobbled together from several different speeches, it establishes the general as someone who would go to any lengths to achieve his goals.

If director Franklin J. Schaffner's work is sometimes overlooked (he also directed *Planet Of The Apes*) it's because of the towering performance at the film's centre, rather than any missteps of his own. Patton was a larger than life figure who not only struck fear and awe into the hearts of his enemies, but those of his own men as well. Scott's turn in the title role is a masterclass from an actor who made a career out of playing brash strong-willed men. From that opening salvo to the final scene of him walking his dog while musing on a hero's place in history, Scott's Patton is a force of nature that dominates the entirety of the 170 minute running time.

Over forty years after its original release, it's clear that *Patton* came at a time when Hollywood was changing. There's an impressive depth to the film that goes beyond the celebration of a war hero. The film explores the general's insecurity and eccentricities carefully but confidently, resulting in a fascinating biopic of a man who believed in reincarnation, studied history, wrote poetry, and condemned cowardice.

EDITOR'S CHOICE


Patton is a force to be reckoned with

Verdict ★★★★★



If you like this try...

Doctor Strangelove, Or, How I Learned To Stop Worrying And Love The Bomb

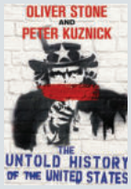
Scott gives another brilliant performance as a gung ho General in Kubrick's masterpiece.

"Over 40 years after its original release, it's clear that Patton came when Hollywood was changing"

THE UNTOLD HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

Reappraising the American century

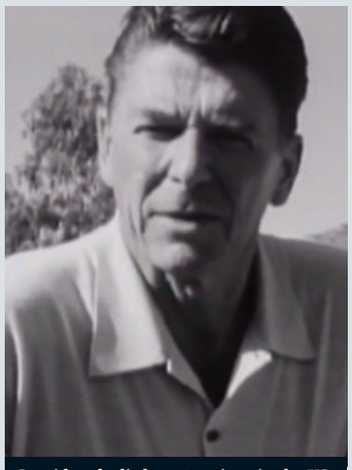
Available on: DVD, LoveFilm



Not by nature a documentarian, Hollywood heavyweight Oliver Stone has nonetheless offered his at-times scathingly iconoclastic take on modern history through the likes of *JFK*, *Born On The Fourth Of July*, and *Platoon*. *The Untold History Of The United States*, co-written by American University academic Peter J Kuznick, is very much the tearing down that wall of fiction, to allow Stone to directly communicate with his audience over the series' 12 episodes. He's clearly a man with a mission to inform, and there's something incredibly endearing about that, making this documentary, originally broadcast on Showtime in the States toward the end of 2012, easy to appreciate, but not impossible to criticise.

Opening with the decision to drop the Atomic Bomb on Japan at the close of World War II and continuing through the Cold War to the present, Stone narrates archive footage in measured tones - never hectoring or evangelizing, simply laying out the information. That the director used the BBC's epic *The World At War* as his template is obvious, and he channels much of that same personable gravitas.

Controversial in the US, where it was accused of both recycling Soviet propaganda and claiming a moral equivalent between Stalinist genocide and duplicitous American foreign policy, *The Untold History Of The United States* is never as aggressive as all that. Though, as you probably picked up from the profile of its creator, and the clichéd cover art, this is a show for people who already care about the subject matter.


Considered a little contentious in the US

Verdict ★★★★☆



If you like this try...

The War On Democracy

Provocative journalist/filmmaker John Pilger explores the USA's political involvement and interference in Latin America.

HISTORY ON NETFLIX

Four documentaries ready to watch on any device

RADIO BIKINI



Director: Robert Stone
Year Made: 1988
Available: UK, US, Canada

Few documentaries will boast the striking raw footage of this chronicle of the 1946 US atomic bomb tests on the island of Bikini Atoll. Truly, the tests are a spectacle and made all the more impactful by their juxtaposition with the quieter on-island moments.

ROAD TO MEMPHIS: THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR



Director: Stephen Ives
Year Made: 2010
Available: US

The shift in focus in this Martin Luther King documentary toward his assassin's journey, James Earle Ray, makes for a thoroughly engaging story that's rich in detail and composed with real purpose. It is bleak, tragic and, difficult to turn away from.

BOBBY FISCHER AGAINST THE WORLD



Director: Liz Garbus
Year Made: 2011
Available: UK, Canada

Big egos and politics make for fascinating documentary bedfellows, as is ably demonstrated by this account of chess prodigy Bobby Fischer's rise to fame and fall to exile. Uncomfortable and intimidatingly smart, Fischer is a documentarian's dream.

JAMES ELLROY'S FEAST OF DEATH



Director: Vikram Jayanti
Year Made: 2001
Available: US, Canada

The charismatic author of *LA Confidential*, James Ellroy, takes us through some of America's grisliest murders. But this film is too relaxed an affair to offer a point and feels more promotional than purposeful.

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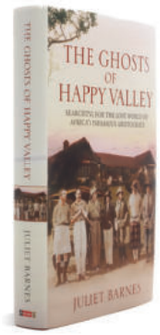
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THE GHOSTS OF HAPPY VALLEY

Sex and scandal in colonial Kenya

Author: Juliet Barnes **Publisher:** Aurum **Price:** £16.99



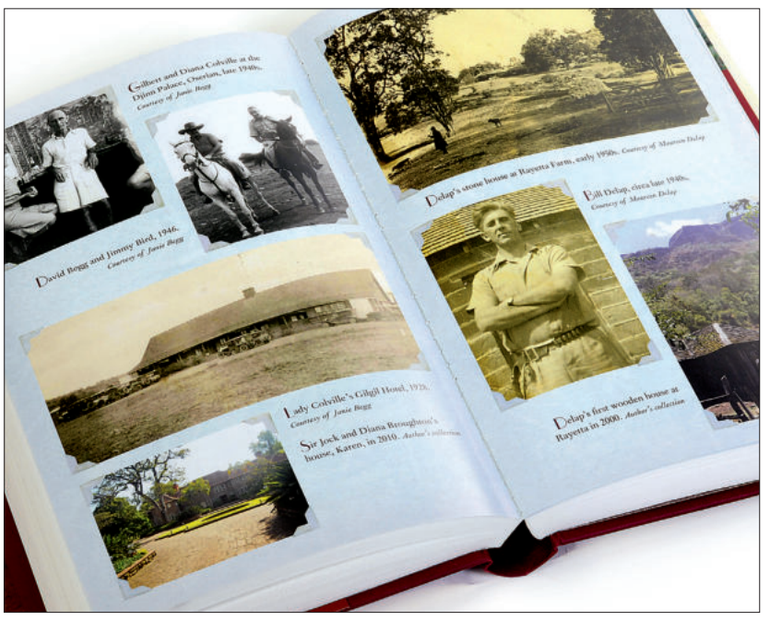
While the Mitford sisters have long led biographical publishing with their unique brand of marketable scandal, the rise of ITV's highly-strung period farce *Downton Abbey* and its imitators has fanned the flames of that existing lust for a pre-World War II Jeremy Kyle to an all-new high.

Kenyan writer Juliet Barnes is far too dedicated to her subject to have arrived at this destination with that in mind, but the subject matter of *The Ghosts Of Happy Valley: Searching For The Lost World Of Africa's Infamous Aristocrats* makes her a reluctant fellow traveller in the search of high tea and sexcapades.

Inspired by *White Mischief*, James Fox's 1982 investigation of the 1941 murder of the adulterous Josslyn Hay, Earl of Erroll, and a fascination with her own colonial connections, Barnes merges travelogue with history, visiting the ruined and reclaimed homes – once opulent abodes with rose gardens – of the wealthy and often ennobled white settlers of Wanjohi Valley, near the Aberdare mountains in west central Kenya. The 'Happy Valley set' was shorthand for scandal and promiscuity, and Barnes coos over "goings on" and marvels at being in the same room as sexy Lady Idina's bathtub.

Despite the various colourful players in the saga (and possible suspects in Hay's murder), Lady Idina Sackville occupies 2008's *The Bolter*, while Denys Finch Hatton has 2007's *Too Close To The Sun* and Countess Alice de Janze was held up for scrutiny in 2010s *The Temptress*. It's clear from these ventures that very little information actually remains about these people's lives, beyond stories of wife-swapping parties.

> "Barnes merges travelogue with history, visiting the ruined and reclaimed homes of the wealthy and ennobled white settlers"



The author's journey to find out from locals where the set lived is determined and admirable. Since the 1952-1960 Mau Mau Uprising against colonial rule drove many settlers from Wanjohi Valley, and Kenyan Independence in 1963 led to farmland being redistributed, few white Africans seem to have visited the region, judging by the reception Barnes gets, even as a fluent speaker of Kikuyu.

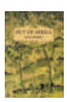
The insights that she gains there, talking to people who remember the Happy Valley set – surprisingly fondly, in some cases, given how appalling the treatment of the black Kenyan servants was – are fascinating, and despite her dreams of solving the Hay murder that shocked British society in 1941 – even making itself heard over the sounds of World War II – she learns far more about what her subjects were like as people.

As the narrative moves to take in the effects of the Mau Mau Uprising against colonial rule and the oppressive response from the British administration on this never-ending sex party, the disparity between Happy Valley hedonism and the brutal reality of life for most Kenyans is a harsh one.

Barnes's natural position of sympathy that comes from talking to elderly, faded society darlings, who largely bemoan the loss of their way of life, makes it increasingly difficult for readers to engage with the core themes once that particular curtain has been pulled back. Yet this is, after all, a study of lives and relationships, and not of the wider ethical/political issues surrounding the mismanagement of the British Empire.

The Ghosts Of Happy Valley is a very personal journey through the detritus of a lost era, for a scandalous few, and so it asks a lot of its reader in hoping you not only care about its subjects – often shallow, self-absorbed and enjoying a privileged lifestyle at the expense of Kenyan dignity – but also appreciate Barnes' enthusiasm for them, as that's the somewhat rose-tinted view taken.

Verdict ★★★☆☆



If you like this try...

Out Of Africa **Isak Dinesen**

Dinesen's memoir details her 17 years of life on a farm near Nairobi. It is the definitive account of the last decades of British rule in Kenya.

TOP FIVE SOCIETY SCANDALS

A selection of racy historical bodice rippers

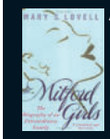
THE VICEROY'S DAUGHTERS



Author: Anne De Courcy

The three daughters of the Viceroy of India escape his micro-management and become society darlings. One marries British Union of Fascists leader Oswald Mosely.

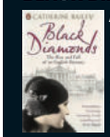
THE MITFORD GIRLS



Author: Mary S Lovell

Six daughters of minor aristocracy lead impossibly varied lives. Two made friends with Hitler, and one marries British Union of Fascists leader Oswald Mosely.

BLACK DIAMONDS



Author: Catherine Bailey

The Fitzwilliam coal magnates fall from grace amid feud, forbidden love, and foul play. None of them marry British Union of Fascists leader Oswald Mosely.

A SCANDALOUS LIFE



Author: Mary S Lovell

19th Century celebrated aristocratic beauty Jane Digby marries young, and then falls for and courts a fantastic array of men from the King of Bavaria to a Bedouin Sheik.

BERTIE: A LIFE OF EDWARD VII



Author: Jane Ridley

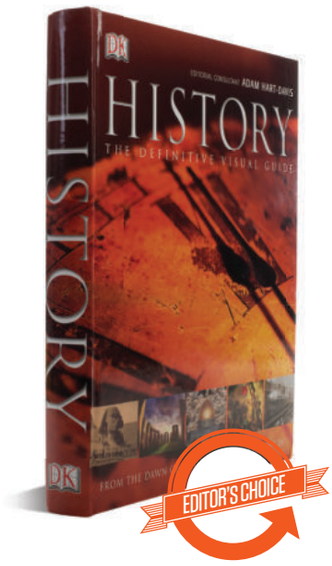
Royal lush and playboy prince Edward VII had an affair with an actress and partied hard, inviting the ire of his mother, Queen Victoria.

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HISTORY – THE DEFINITIVE VISUAL GUIDE

Life, the universe and everything

Author: Various **Publisher:** Dorling Kindersley **Price:** £25.00



This hefty hardback from Dorling Kindersley is yet another proud effort from a publisher dedicated to creating beautiful, informative and accessible books that can be enjoyed by any age group. The title may be something of a bold mission statement (putting the word "definitive" in front of anything is inviting criticism) but this is an extensive and sweeping introduction to a vast array of subjects.

From the origins of humankind to the development of modern communication systems, this book offers nearly 500 pages of concise but comprehensive information. There's an excellent balance between well-chosen, beautiful pictures and boxouts containing key facts and figures, and there's additional information on the influences and consequences of the key events, movements and historical figures chosen for further study. For example, the article on the American Civil War contains 'Before' and 'After' boxes that detail, in brief, the reasons behind the conflict and the effects that emancipation and reconstruction had on the American people, as well as a short piece on Ulysses S. Grant.

The book is split into seven main sections, and it is worth noting that there is a slight tendency to focus on Western history after the Ancient Egyptian period. The development of Europe and the United States is given most of the attention in the post-Renaissance chapters, although the section that is spent on the Renaissance does explore the effects of European trade around the world. However, in-depth looks at the development of agriculture in the Cradle of Civilisation and then 20th Century events such as the Russian Revolution go some way to redressing the balance.

It goes without saying that if you're looking for a more detailed look at a particular period in history, then such a broad tome might not be the perfect choice. It's more of a lavish primer than an in-depth resource. As a starting



point for a young person beginning to an show interest in the subject, though, this is a fantastic resource. It provides the context for further exploration, and it does so very well. As a general guide to have, this would be the perfect gift for someone who is just starting to discover history.

Verdict ★★★★★

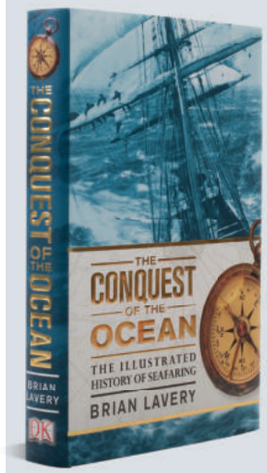


If you like this try...
Science: The Definitive Visual Guide **Various**
Dorling Kindersley's scientific counterpart to its history text is a similarly accessible but comprehensive guide.

THE CONQUEST OF THE OCEAN

A surprising thorough study of seafaring

Author: Various **Publisher:** Dorling Kindersley **Price:** £25.00



Author: Brian Lavery
Publisher: Dorling Kindersley
Price: £19.99

Often, with sweeping introductions like this glossy, full-colour, illustrated tome, you expect the obvious Cooks, Columbuses and Magellans, who author Brian Lavery more than delivers on, but it's to the veteran historian's credit that he delivers much more too.

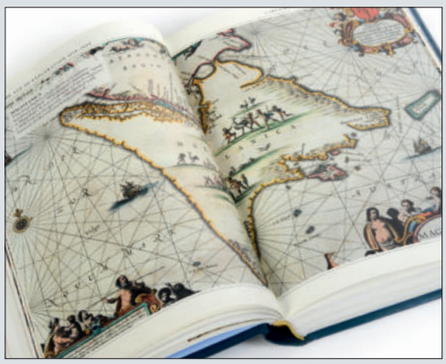
An admirably global account, Lavery – Curator Emeritus at Britain's National Maritime Museum and historical consultant for *Master And Commander: The Far Side Of The World* – breaks maritime history into manageable chunks, laid out chronologically.

The Conquest Of The Ocean moves briskly from ill-fated Viking journeys over the North Atlantic to the incredible voyages of Zheng He's Chinese treasure fleet and the Polynesian exploration of the South Pacific, ending with the course-changing naval engagements of the First and Second World Wars, the Cuban Missile Crisis and finally the modern battle with piracy.

These huge topics are breezily presented yet not patronising – you'll be flipping pages to explore each deftly-deployed photograph of a historical artifact, contemporary illustration, and the spread-sized maps showing shipwrecks, pirate bases, maritime battle fields, icebergs and prevailing winds.

Presentation being DK's weapon of choice, it's no surprise that *The Conquest Of The Ocean* looks fantastic, but that Lavery is able to break complex issues into engaging human drama that's both emotive and balanced – especially when dealing with contentious topics like colonialism – is a triumph. Whatever your age or level of knowledge, you're given a fresh perspective.

Given Lavery's obvious career focus – his bibliography is stuffed with texts on the Regency-to-modern era British Royal Navy – there's an increasing



Anglocentrism as the book moves forward. Starting near the mid-point and the age of the ocean-going European empires, British and American history comes stridently to the fore. Arguably, their weight in the narrative reflects fact, and the birth of these countries as huge naval powers, but many would gladly sacrifice the Falklands War and America's Cup for more insight into the rest of the globe.

Verdict ★★★☆☆



If you like this try...
Falling Upwards **Richard Holmes**
A personable account of mankind's dream of flight, from gentlemanly 'balloon rivalries' to incredible feats in the name of science.

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We think these photos were taken from HMS Nelson while on convoy escort in the Atlantic

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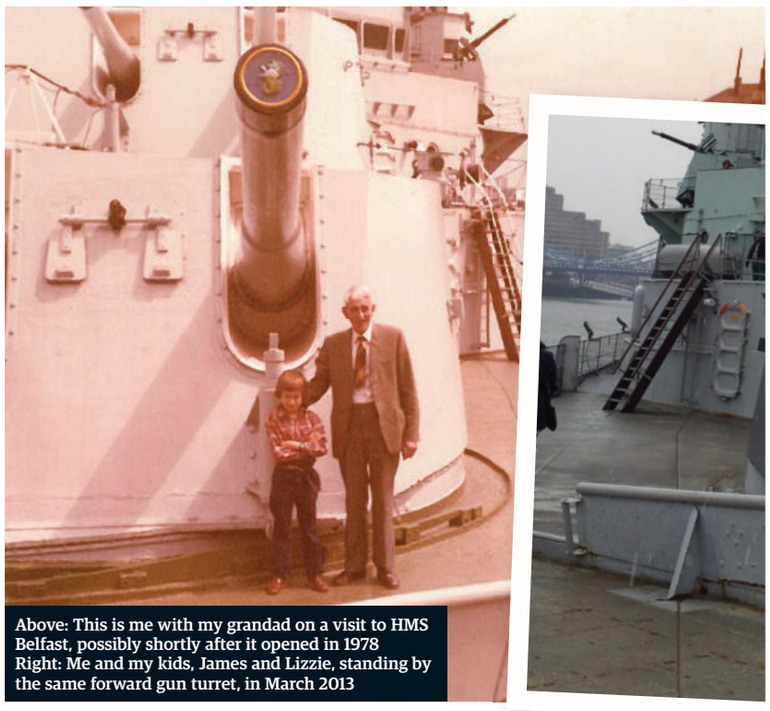
Family trees
A chance to boast about famous or significant ancestors

YOUR PHOTOS

World War II collection shared



Dave Harfield,
As editor, I thought it only right that I should open the first All About Your History section by sharing my own family history. Like many with the surname Harfield, we hail from Hampshire with my dad being raised in Gosport near Portsmouth. It will come as no surprise then that my family has close ties to the Royal Navy. My grandad, Walter B Harfield, served on many ships including HMS Belfast and HMS Nelson during World War II. After the war he kept many photos, medals and other wartime memorabilia in his sea chest. Looking through the chest was always a highlight of my visits and I'd like to share some of its treasures with readers here.



Above: This is me with my grandad on a visit to HMS Belfast, possibly shortly after it opened in 1978
Right: Me and my kids, James and Lizzie, standing by the same forward gun turret, in March 2013

Do you have a naval history in your family?

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Send your memories to: @ allabouthistory@imagine-publishing.co.uk

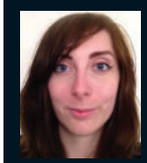
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YOUR PHOTOS

Nostalgic family snaps

We're from a long line of travelling showmen



Amy Forrest

Myself and my twin brother Henry are the first generation of our family to not travel with the fun fair. We come from a long line of travelling showmen and our two families, Forrest and Edwards, are well known within the fair community. On a recent visit to Dingles Funfair Museum in Devon I saw – and went on – some rides that actually belonged to my mother's great great uncle.

Our parents decided to 'settle down' and stop travelling when we were still babies, but we did live on a site with other showmen in a large American-style caravan until we were seven when we moved into a house. So, my early childhood is full of memories of playing with all the other children on the site – it was like having another family. We did everything together, which I missed when we moved to the countryside where there were hardly any other families nearby.

Even after we moved we would still visit family and friends at the fair. I remember helping my grandad loading corks into the guns for his shooting game, going on all the rides for free, and eating candyfloss till I felt sick. While the fun fair was a fantastical place for a child, I did get to see the reality behind the rides, the struggle to make enough money when theme parks opened, the dangerous background mechanics of the machines and the abuse sometimes endured by the showmen. But despite these things, it's a wonderful life with a strong sense of community, hard work and above all, fun!

Did your family work on fun fairs? Share your story with us...

/AllAboutHistory @AboutHistoryMag



A photo my grandfather took of King George VI and Winston Churchill visiting his ship



A tradition in the Navy, this certificate is given upon an individual's first crossing of the equator



NEWS CLIPPINGS

Your historic news on show

Elaine Sheppard

In the summer of 1997 I was studying A-Level Media Studies and was tasked with a holiday project to track a news story. I chose to follow the blossoming romance between Princess Diana and Dodi Al Fayed. The twist in this story came on that fateful night on 31 August in Paris and the rest, of course, was tracked in every single newspaper that was written, sold, and bought by me for my summer project.

Do you have vivid memories of a high-profile news story?

/AllAboutHistory

@AboutHistoryMag



Few stories of the 20th Century received such widespread media attention

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ALL ABOUT YOUR HISTORY
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Fascinating family stories

AMAZING STORIES



Sarah's family pose next to the iconic FA Cup trophy where it was stored at their family-run pub near Portsmouth during the war

Got a story about sporting history? /AllAboutHistory @AboutHistoryMag

Sarah Harrison

When my grandmother was a little girl, she and her younger sister grew up in the Bird in Hand pub in Lovedean, Hampshire, where their father was landlord for several years. Many happy experiences were had there, but one of the most memorable has to be following the 1939 FA Cup final between Portsmouth and Wolverhampton Wanderers. After beating Wolves 4-1, Pompey were presented with the FA Cup by King George VI. Developments surrounding the Second World War, however, meant that the competition was suspended. As a result, the FA Cup travelled the surrounding areas of Portsmouth in order to escape the naval city itself, and ended up in the Bird in Hand for two years.

My grandmother said that her father took his role of guarding the Cup very seriously. It would rest on top of the radio behind the bar during daylight hours, and at night would go under the bed. My ancestors were rightly proud of their responsibility, as this photo shows.

LETTERS FROM THE PAST

Correspondence from your ancestors

Emily Barnes

In 1913, at the age of 17, my Great Uncle, Frank Richard Saunders sailed from England to join his brother Jack in Australia. Having nearly lost his life in The Great War, he went back to Australia. He never made it back to England.

Wowan, Australia
8 January 1953

Dear Fred and Nell,

Yours to hand several weeks ago returning pension advice forms for which I thank you. Why in the heck they sent them to Elworth for beats me. I suppose they think I am still in England on holidays, sometimes I wish I was but when I think of your wet, cold weather I then think our hot sunshine takes a lot of beating. Well another Christmas and new year has come and gone, to think it's four years since we left you to come back home, time seems to be flying fast. We are glad to hear you are in the farmhouse now, with all the modern conveniences, only thing they are about fifty years overdue, old Lordie must have opened his heart. Yes I guess the milking machines are a big advantage they cut out the hard work. After we finished the wheat harvest early in Nov I took Carrie and Nancy on a motor tour of the southern states we went as far as Melbourne in time for the Melbourne Cup run. The cup is Australia's richest race held once a year on the first Tuesday in Nov. We were away a month and travelled 4,191 miles. I have a new Velox car and we enjoyed the trip very much we expect to come to England in about four years as long as our health holds. We are having good seasons for farming, beef 11.0 per 100lb, Pork 2/-lb dressed, wheat 16/6 bushel, sorghum 18/- a bushel, and taxation has been getting higher. Well space is getting short so I'll close, trusting you are in the best of health, as this leaves all of us well, also Jack and his family, thanks for the invitation to the old home trusting we can make it some day.

Yours truly, **Frank**



Caroline and Frank Saunders with their new Velox

Have you ever found a dusty letter with a story to tell?
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ANTIQUES & OBJECTS

Your treasures and heirlooms



A mysterious object

Cathy Blackman

We only found out what this was years after we found it. It's a powdering tub – also sometimes known as a salting tub or powdering trough – which was used for salting meat.





From the trenches with love

Cathy Blackman

These World War I postcards were among a collection inherited from my great grandmother. One was from her brother Alex, sent home from the trenches of World War I and postmarked January 1917. I understand that Alex survived the war, so the souvenir packs showing 'before' and 'after' pictures of various towns may well have been brought back by him.



In 'mint' condition

Ben Biggs

The farthing was worth one quarter of a penny and couldn't buy you very much even when it was minted, around 150 years ago. Incredibly, at the same time a one-third farthing (one twelfth of a penny!) was minted for the British colony of Malta.

The George III gold third-guinea (worth seven shillings, or 42p today) is a metal detector find I purchased on eBay. For me it's a twee reminder of colonial Britain at its height.

Last is a William IV sovereign (worth 20 shillings, or 120p today) dated 1826 with an overstrike error, where one date has been struck over another. Such errors are usually caught these days, but some still slip through.

These coins are in such good condition because they are stored in protective pockets. Did you know that the term 'mint condition' originally stems from the collection of coins, referring to the condition in which newly manufactured coins leave the mint where coins are produced.



Message in a poison bottle

Ben Biggs

I dug this poison bottle out of an abandoned quarry, characteristically hexagonal and corrugated to warn those with poor eyesight. Luckily for me, the Victorians were notoriously wasteful because they produced some beautiful (and very collectible) bottles.

Do you have any old finds you'd like to share?

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HISTORY VS HOLLYWOOD

Fact versus fiction on the silver screen...



DOWNFALL

Director: Oliver Hirschbiegel **Starring:** Bruno Ganz **Country Of Origin:** Germany **Year made:** 2004

Downfall chronicles the last days of Hitler in World War II, as the Soviets march on Berlin and the Nazi leader loses control of the war and his commanding generals

WHAT THEY GOT WRONG...

01 Joseph Goebbels rants about how the German people chose their fate, after learning his personal recruits had been killed due to poor training and substandard weaponry. While the sentiment is accurate, his actual speech was far more powerful, justifying Hitler's action and ending with the line "the earth will shake when we leave the scene."

02 Albert Speer has a brief conversation with Traudl Junge, Hitler's personal secretary, about whether she plans to stay in the bunker or escape and survive. Yet this conversation is never mentioned in Speer's own recollections, nor by others who were in Hitler's bunker at the time. It's likely this conversation was fabricated for the sake of the movie.

03 SS Obergruppenführer Tellermann oversaw the evacuation of Schenk's building as Operation Clausewitz started and while it's likely a German officer was assigned that duty, it wasn't Tellermann as his character was created specifically for *Downfall*. No German officer of that rank at that time had a name like Tellermann.

04 SS Obersturmbannführer Stehr kills himself along with Walther Hewel after hearing the Nazis have surrendered to the Soviets. In reality, while Stehr did take his own life with a pistol shot due to the Nazi's end being nigh, he actually shot himself before hearing about the surrender to the Soviets.

05 Peter Kranz is part of the Hitler Youth whose unit is awarded the Iron Cross for firing mortars upon the Russians. Hitler then tells Peter: "I wish my generals were as brave as you." However, Peter and this exchange were both created solely for the film, which also means the ending isn't accurate...

06 Peter is believed to be based on a composite of Hitler Youth members but mostly inspired by the story of Alfred Czech, who won the Iron Cross. A key difference between Peter and Alfred is that Czech won the Iron Cross for saving wounded soldiers, not for firing mortars upon the Russians.

07 Downfall ends with Traudl Junge leaving the bunker and narrowly evading capture by Russian soldiers thanks to the intervention of Peter. However, we know Peter doesn't exist, so what really happened? Unfortunately, the truth is Traudl was captured by Russian soldiers.

ALL ABOUT HISTORY

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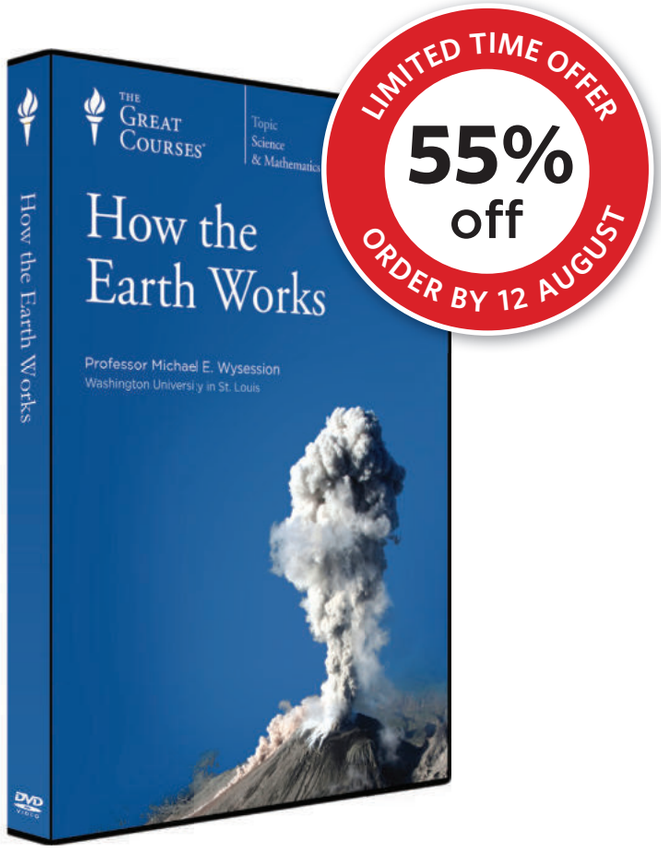
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